THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE PRESENTS

May - June 1972

BING

REG BRISTO

Edited by

JOHN BASSETT

NO. 26

"THE DAY A DREAM CAME TRUE..." : Mr. and Mrs. John Fleming, of Banbury, Oxon with Bing at Shepperton, 1961.

John told the happy story with tremendous sincerity in the last issue of BING.

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THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE has pleasure in welcoming many new members this month who join us with the May 1972 issue of our magazine "BING" - dedicated to the greatest of them all, and the luckiest admirers in the world! The magazine has an international circulation and all members are invited to contribute to its pages.

S P E C I A L A N N O U N C E M E N T

The ICC's publication, "THE A TO Z OF BING CROSBY", is now available from the Secretary, Reg Bristo,

THE PRICE IS £1, post paid. Further details page 35. All members on our reservation list are invited to forward their remittance to Reg as soon as possible. Postal orders, cheques, etc. should be made payable to THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE. (Overseas members: British Isles equivalent).

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The
INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE
presents

BING

ISSUE 26

MAY 1972

EDITORIAL

Once again, a few words from the editorial chair introduces another issue of our club magazine. This is a busy period for yours truly, particularly as I am fully occupied with moving home and getting married. Transportation of my records and tapes has been my prime concern over the past few weeks, and I have personally carried every item of the collection to its new home in Southend-on-Sea....a distance of five miles from my original residence in the village of Great Wakering. The attention of all members is drawn to the new "Bingville" address, to which all correspondence can now be sent.

At this stage of production, the magazine promises to be an interesting issue, and much of its recent success owes itself to the high standard of articles which are now being written and the knowledgeable team who are contributing them. My thanks to you all. We shall continue with this high standard and make a point of progressing more towards a professional publication with every succeeding issue. Those of you who are just content to read our magazine can contribute in another way by enlisting more members to the ICC. This small service will be invaluable to us, and it is my desire to see "BING" emerge as a properly printed magazine, providing we can increase our membership a little more over the next couple of years or so.

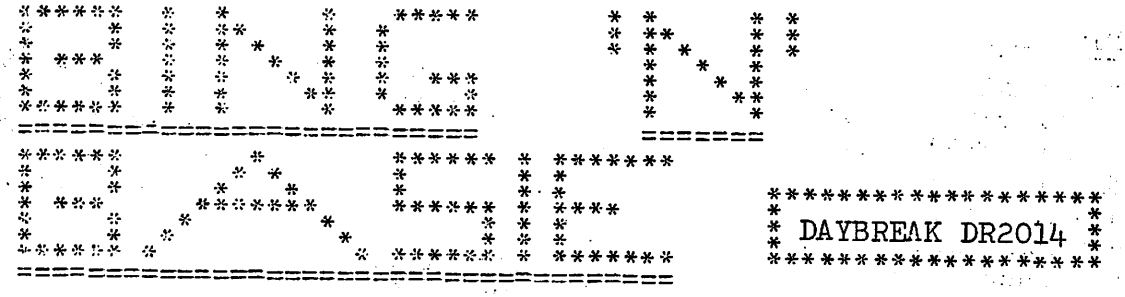
BEST WISHES

JOHN BASSETT

CONTENTS

	Pages
Announcements and Advertisements	4
Editorial	5
"Bing 'n' Basie" - the latest LP	6 - 7
Bing Snippets (LESLIE GAYLOR)	7 - 8
Bing On The Box (BERT BISHOP)	9 -11
Press Talk	12
Bing Who?...	12
Would-Be Bing! (KEN CROSSLAND)	13
Bing In Madame Tussauds - continued (NORMAN TOOGOOD)	13-14
Celluloid Crosby (KEITH PARKINSON)	15-16
Crosby Shoppe	17-18
Well, Did You Evah!	18
Do I Hear You Saying - Editor's Postbag ..	19-21
The Richard Muirhead Columns	22-23
Stateside TV Report (WIG WIGGINS)	23-24
Bishop's Bench (BERT BISHOP)	25-26
Obituary - Stan Davis	27
Bing Meets Perry (KEN CROSSLAND)	27-28
Letter To Leslie Gaylor	28
Bing Topics From Hull (ALF FARROW)	29
Bing-Buyer's Corner	30
Stop Press	30
THE REG BRISTO PAGES	31 onwards

BING CROSBY, the greatest exponent of popular song in the history of show business, celebrated his birthday earlier this month, and the ICC and all its members wish him many more years of happiness and good health. Whether you believe that Bing is 68 or 71 this year, it makes no difference to the fact that he is still 'going strong' and making us realise all the more that the world never has, and never will, see his equal. A legend in his own lifetime, Bing has appeared on records with some of the greatest names in the business, but only recently, for the first time in his 45-year-old career, Bing teamed up with Count Basie's Orchestra and cut 12 new tracks. Details of the album, to be called "BING 'N' BASIE", appear by courtesy of Larry Crosby.



(RCA Serial Nos.)		(Daybreak Nos.)
BKB5-8177	HAVE A NICE DAY (Nestico-Mercer) Banes Music - Daybreak Music/ASCAP	DL 271
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BKB5-8187	PUT YOUR HAND IN THE HAND (G.MacLellan) Beechwood Music Corp./BMI	DL 281

BKB5-8188 HANGIN' LOOSE DL 282
(Nestico-Mercer)
Daybreak Music/ASCAP

Produced by SONNY BURKE
Arrangements by SAMMY NESTICO
Recorded at Amigo Studios, North Hollywood,
February 28, 29 and March 1, 1972
Engineer: Lanky Linstrott.

(Selections in LP not in sequence)

According to Gordon Gray of POLYDOR Ltd., the company is awaiting copies of the album from the States, and the likely release date will be August/September this year. This information appears by courtesy of Richard Muirhead. And so it appears that we have a very interesting album coming our way, typical of the high standard we have come to expect from Sonny Burke's "Daybreak" label. It is pleasing to note that Bing is still choosing his material from the current 'pop' charts, but on the other hand many members will be of the opinion that he should have steered clear of the number "Gentle On My Mind". This song has already been handled by countless other performers, and any desire to hear a new version of it has, by now, been well and truly quashed. A little bird tells us that Bing recorded this album over a previously recorded musical accompaniment, and that the entire session, minus Bing's voice, has already been played by the BBC! Such a statement cannot be confirmed at the time of typing this issue, but the idea seems highly unlikely. However, this promises to be a really fine album, and with a little luck, it may be in the shops when our next edition of "BING" is going to press. Happy listening!

==========

by LESLIE GAYLOR

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As usual, the last issue of "BING" made excellent reading, and I found myself reading it over and over again. All contributors have my personal thanks for creating the 'Bing Fever' within me whenever my eyes are feasted upon anything in print that features our 'Joint Favourite' - the greatest of them all!

Everyone would agree that the news of Bing's latest album is tremendous news indeed, and thanks must obviously be due to Sonny Burke for his enterprise in getting Bing to record again. I have suggested to Mr. Robert Weiss, the Executive Vice-President of "Daybreak" Records, that they consider issuing another Bing album to 'tie in' with his 46th Recording Anniversary on October 18th next. Other members may wish to back me up on this idea, so here is the address to which to write to either Sonny Burke or Robert Weiss:-

"DAYBREAK RECORDS"
9000 Sunset Boulevard
(Suite 606)
Hollywood
California
90069
USA.

As a matter of interest, the album "A Time To Be Jolly" was distributed by RCA. I'm glad that everyone who has written to me has found some

delight in this album, and I would say that "The Song Of Christmas" is my favourite. The way Bing puts over the word "below" is marvellous! It hit my ear right away the first time round. Only Bing can put such meaning into a single word such as that just mentioned. I find myself in complete agreement with Reg Bristo...there's nobody else in the singing world who can beat Bing's "b's"!

If anyone was listening to Johnny Moran's programmes just before Christmas in which he featured recordings that had sold a million, they would have heard the 1942 78 rpm disc of "White Christmas" - plus a comment that it was the original and now unobtainable. It was pleasing to hear this track for a change as it is a shade better than the 1947 version. The same goes, I think, for the 1942 version of "Silent Night" compared with the later version. I wonder if Geoff Milne of Decca had it in mind to release them on microgroove discs, or were there restrictions?

One of my best 'plugs' so far this year has been on John Benson's "Late Night Extra" in his popular 'Movie Memory' spot. He played my request of "The Second Time Around" and how splendid it came over! Lovely product of Jimmy Van Heusen and Sammy Cahn, nice orchestral accompaniment, and Bing in great form! I'm sure that an album of songs in this vein could put him right back in the picture. At Shepperton Studios, Bing said to me, "Would you like to meet Jimmy Van Heusen and Sammy Cahn, Leslie?"...and what a thrill it was to be introduced by Bing to these famous songwriters. Their songs are marvellous, and I wish Bing had commercially recorded a few more of them, especially "All The Way".

One final word about the new album, "Bing 'n' Basie"....this is the kind of material that many 'deejays' and producers will go for, so let's hope that members will keep the flag flying for Bing by sending out plenty of request cards to the BBC.

LESLIE GAYLOR

TAPE CROSBY

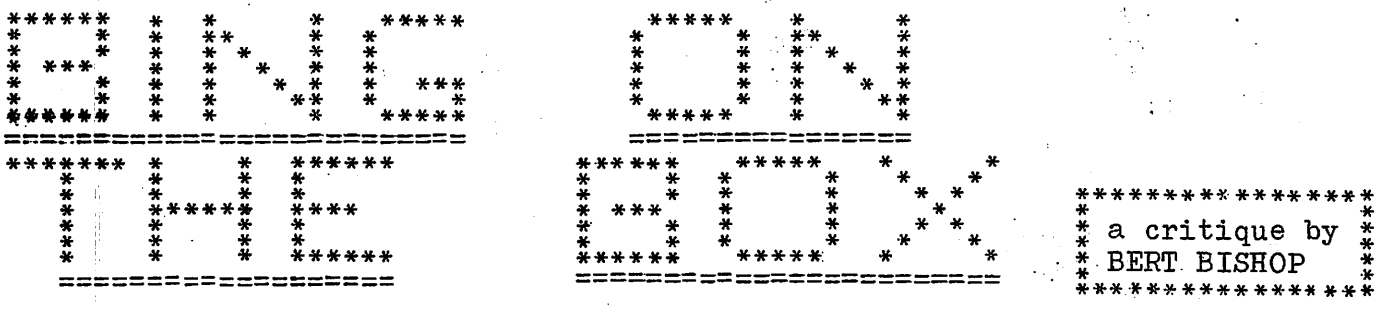
"TAPE CROSBY" operates as an independent feature of "BING", and consists of a frequently changing taped 'programme' of Crosbyana which circulates regularly amongst a limited number of members. Interested applicants are invited to contact Fred Reynolds who will advise them when a vacancy occurs within the 'circuit'. His address appears at the beginning of this issue. Please enclose a SAE.

FORTHCOMING ICC PROJECTS

"A BING CROSBY L.P.-OGRAPHY".....embracing the major proportion of all commercially issued albums, including overseas equivalents and re-issues, of Bing Crosby since the early 'fifties up to the present day.

"A BING CROSBY MINI-DISCOGRAPHY".....completely revised and up-dated version of the original publication by Frank Murphy and Jean-Paul Frerault.

....both in preparation.



The ITV series of "THIS IS YOUR LIFE" bears scant comparison with the original 45 minute series, that Eamonn Andrews also hosted, on the BBC channel. Then, the surprised 'victims' were characters whose lives had embraced a pattern of events worthy of recount. Whereas, the current crop of 'surprised' personalities that are trotted on, some of whom have barely lived yet, seems merely an excuse for a parade of back-slapping 'all-pals-together' bent on catching the producer's eye.

How refreshing, then, when someone whose life really is of some substantial substance is presented for a potted profile. One such, on Wednesday 22nd March, was Dr. Michael Wood who operates as part of the East African 'Flying Doctor Service', an institution of tremendous value in that vast, scattered area of civilisation.

Among the tributes to him was a testimonial from Bing filmed at his California home. Bing ambled on carrying the inevitable golf-club, casually dressed as ever with battered trilby concealing his lack of hirsute adornment. He spoke of his visits to Nairobi and the hospitality that Dr. Wood extended to Bing and his wife, Kathy, on the occasions that they had been invited to stay with him. Kathy, who is a qualified nurse, was so inspired by the Service that she volunteered her assistance and contributed by working with the Service for a few weeks during their holiday. Bing closed his meed of praise by wishing the Service, and Dr. Wood in particular, success and luck.

This was indeed a bonus for readers who regularly watch this programme. This was one that I missed out on and subsequently have had to rely on kind friends and information from Mr. Malcolm Morris, the producer of the programme, to whom I wrote, for the brief details that are presented here. Incidentally, Mr. Morris sends his best regards to our organisation on behalf of himself and Mr. Andrews.

This is the second occasion within the last 18 months that Eamonn Andrews has conjured up a filmed tribute from Bing. Previously it was for Bob Hope's appearance in a two-part edition of the programme. However, it would be a real 'coup de maitre' if Eamonn could lure our man into the studio some time and proudly announce, Bing Crosby - "THIS IS YOUR LIFE".

Fred Astaire, rightly accepted as the greatest 'song and dance man' of this or any other age, was the subject of a special edition of "THE DICK CAVETT SHOW" as presented on BBC-2, Easter Monday, 3rd April, at 10.55 p.m.

Having co-starred with Bing in two Irving Berlin musicals - "HOLIDAY INN" of 1942 vintage and "BLUE SKIES" four years later - it was inevitable that in what proved to be a biographical programme spanning a show-biz career of 68 years (he made his debut at 5 years of age) there would be some reference to his most famous male co-star.

In an unusually restrained but nevertheless highly laudatory build-up from his host - Dick Cavett - Fred was introduced via an extract from that spectacular dance sequence, "Puttin' On The Ritz", from "BLUE SKIES". A good start even though Bing wasn't mentioned. Chatting together and illustrating with film clips and photographs they traced Fred's early and varied career, eventually drawing on the "Firecracker Dance" that was choreographed as the 4th July routine set to the music of "Song Of Freedom" for "HOLIDAY INN", to illustrate the ingenious solo interpretation that is the hallmark

of this great performer. Again, not a sight nor sound of Bing. I began to doubt my "inevitable reference" hunch.

After singing a medley of songs indelibly associated with him, Fred, whose voice, like the Gershwin's 'British museum' has 'lost its charm', got on to the subject of his dancing partners.

Cavett: "You know, I was thinking, you've danced with Ginger Rogers and Rita Hayworth and Barrie Chase and Cyd Charisse and Judy Garland and, er, Audrey Hepburn; it would not be diplomatic to ask you who was the greatest dancer, so I won't. Who was the biggest 'klutz' though?"

This idiomatic colloquialism, the precise meaning of which is unknown to me, was certainly not lost on the audience who reacted with an outburst of spontaneous laughter.

Fred: "Do you want an answer?"

Cavett: "Yeah".

Fred: "Bing Crosby!" At this, the audience responded gratuitously by clapping: the buzz of humorous conversation and laughter partially obscuring the clarity, and therefore accuracy, of the ensuing lines. "I always got out of that when they used to ask me 'who was your best partner'", Fred continued. "I'd say, 'now look, I'm not going to get in that trouble, it's Bing Crosby', so that covers that!"

Cavett: "So it covers it either way".

Fred: "But he was a 'klutz', he was great....in his modest way!"

The programme meandered on with Fred singing a few more songs and even delighting the audience, and me, with a touch of his old terpsichorean tap. My earlier remark about Fred's current vocal ability was not intended to be hypercritical, but the fact remains that, unlike Bing, I doubt that he would come through with flying colours at a commercial recording session - but then, he is 73 years old and never had a truly melodious voice anyway, charming as it was. Nice to know that Bing is a 'klutz' - I think - will someone kindly enlighten us?

Bing was afforded the honour, one might almost say the rightful prerogative, of commencing and closing the BBC-2 series, 'Saturday Afternoon Musical', which concluded its run on the 29th April. The final film chosen - "HIGH TIME", a 1960 "20th Century Fox" 'Bing Crosby Productions' feature - scarcely qualifies as a musical despite the fact that apart from Bing it also co-starred Fabian, an erstwhile pop singer. Bing sang only one song - "The Second Time Around" - and Fabian merely warbled a line or two of "The Foggy, Foggy Dew" of all things!

There were one or two other casual outbursts of song such as, "You Tell Me Your Dream", sung in chorus atop a plodding-horse-drawn haywain and a rendering of just one verse of "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear" by a fraternity group; Bing taking a couple of lines solo. However, I've heard equally as much story-featured music in a Western or straightforward thriller in the saloon bar or nightclub scenes. There were no big musical production numbers to justify this categorization whatsoever. I suppose it could be classed more as 'light comedy', in fact its previous TV screening was in the BBC 'Laugh Parade' series which does suggest that description as more deserving.

The story is wrapped around the easy going 51 year old wealthy widower restauranter, Harvey Howard (Bing), who decides it is 'high time' someone in his family graduated from college, having qualified by passing through high school way back in '29. Neither his son nor his daughter being so inclined, and both quite disgusted by their father's action in enrolling at 'Pinehurst' as they drop him off at school!

The college's staff and pupils' initial exasperation giving way to incredulity at the unusual situation is well exploited, but alas, without the laughs that the screenplay writers, Tom and Frank Waldman, might well have milked from the circumstances.

Harvey soon settles in among his teenage freshman roomates; Gil Cuneo (Fabian); Bob Bennerman (Richard Beymer) and T. J. Padmanabhan from

New Delhi (Patrick Adiarte). On hand is Joy Elder (Tuesday Weld), and another 'freshman', to provide the younger set love interest, whilst Harvey dallies with the delectable Helene Gauthier (Nichole Maurey), French, widowed, and a proffessor at the college.

The entire film is essentially a series of comedy sketches strung together by this pleasantly lightweight storyline and since the transition from freshmen to graduating seniors spanned four years its episodic nature needed careful handling to keep up the pace of the action. This was quite cleverly done by the film's director - Blake Edwards - in the use of time lapse scene changes such as groups of students painting out or rolling off the backdrop, unrolling a sports pitch like a carpet and speeding up the projection to suggest the frenzy and haste of campus life.

Perhaps the two most amusing sequences were, firstly, the annual celebration bonfire building, each succeeding year's having to exceed the height of the preceeding year. The attempts of the faculty to gather sufficient combustible material was real Mack Sennett stuff. Harvey lays the foundation by almost grabbing the wooden soap-box from beneath the sport senior's feet and 'topping out' to the necessary height by scrambling up the rickety cone of lumber with a cane-bottom chair upon which he eventually triumphantly seats himself. Between times, the lads and lasses have left behind a trail of hopping, chairless and crutchless cripples, ski-less skiers and a floundering diver who had his spring-board snatched away from beneath him at the moment of truth, whilst on the skyline a little wooden hut is whisked away to reveal a seated silhouetted figure no longer cosily closetted!

Bing in 'drag' is not new and it was exploited again here - the second of the funnier sequences - during his final initiation into the fraternity. He is obliged to virtually gate-crash a local ball given by Judge Carter (Douglas Dumbrille) who is a college trustee and to dance with and get his dance-card signed by that worthy. Unfortunately, the Judge has the gout and has his foot propped up in the traditional manner; a devious disadvantage forseen by the fraternity members. Harvey arrives accompanied by Bennerman - who has the social advantage of being the son of an admiral - as his escort and witness. Harvey is announced as Mrs. Pride 'O' May Pickett:

"Where d'ya get <u>that</u> name?" mutters Harvey.

"Off a jar of peanut butter", whispers Bennerman.

Harvey loses his skirt and later removes his wig bringing ultimate dismay to his son and daughter who are guests at this social event of the year. But after getting himself shipshape again he whispers a request to the orchestra conductor to play "Dixie". The Judge being a loyal Confederate struggles to his feet, or more appropriately, foot; whereupon Harvey grabs him and twirls him around to the stirring strains of this Southern two-step anthem, thus becoming a 'fully paid up member' of the Alpha Kappa Phi Fraternity.

Companionable romance develops between Harvey and Helene who eventually proposes marriage to the unforthcoming, by now, Senior student. But Harvey is not so sure.

"Why, I could no more get married again than fly", he keeps repeating. Gil and Bob do their best to 'straighten him out' in this respect and in the final scene - graduation - Harvey is called upon by the College Dean to make a philosophical speech, using as his theme the coalescence of knowledge, wisdom and age. He puts over what he himself has now realised, that all things are possible with effort of mind and body, the implication being that he will now marry Helene.

With a final fling at a humorous finish, director Edwards has Harvey launched into the air to glide over the assembly just to prove the point he has made in his speech; man can indeed "fly" if need be. Although it was made quite clear that the 'flight' was all done with wires, nevertheless it was highly contrived and positively the most unbelievable scene in an otherwise acceptable story.

<u>BERT BISHOP</u>

BING

A round-up of Bing-type news items from the papers

"DAILY EXPRESS" 10th April 1972

GENTLE PERSUADER

When Bing Crosby arrives in London later this month it will be because 24-year-old Suzie More O'Ferrall persuaded "the old groaner" that he still had a massive following in Britain. Suzie - daughter of race horse owner and blood-stock dealer Frank More O'Ferrall - met Bing during a recent tour of America.

She says: "I asked him why he didn't come to do a show in London like Sinatra did. He said, 'Do you think anyone would want me?'"

Suzie, who works for a London-based record company, obviously put up a convincing argument.

"DAILY EXPRESS" 22nd April 1972

THE Oscar Bing Crosby won for his 1944 film "Going My Way" has been stolen from a museum of Crosby mementos at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. A three-inch statue of Mickey Mouse was left in its place.

"DAILY EXPRESS" 2nd May 1972

WHEN the blue of the night meets the gold of the day this morning Bing Crosby will be 68. The Old Groaner will celebrate with his second wife Kathy and children Harry, 14, Mary, 13, and Nathaniel, 11, at their sprawling vacation home in the Baja California (Mexico) seaside town of Las Cruces. He spends his time there fishing, boating, and swimming. His wife teaches English and runs a medical clinic for the inhabitants. My birthday greetings to Bing today. William Hickey.

BING WHO?....

The following item appeared in the "DAILY EXPRESS" on Saturday, 26th February 1972, and surprised, confused and disappointed (in that order!) many a Crosby enthusiast.....

THE MET AND BING (Omnibus, BBC-1, 10.30 p.m. Sunday)

"Omnibus" looks at the magnificent Met - the New York Opera House, and its retiring general manager, Sir Rudolf Bing, who will be seen collecting his knighthood at Buckingham Palace in his Rolls - the high spot of his life he says. Asked if he did any fund raising in his 22 years at the Met he replied, "No". He had a committee for that. But he did sometimes have tea with a duchess who might part with a cheque for £40,000. He called that a "high tea". Omnibus also looks at Bing's successor, Goeran Gentele, formerly with the Royal Swedish Opera.

Prior to seeing this news item, and being ignorant of the fact that a gentleman called Bing was the Met's general manager, I had been shown the following

extract from Alistair MacLean's book "Caravan To Vaccares" (Collins, hard-bound version, Chapter One, page 34) and was quite prepared to go ahead and feature it as a genuine item of Crosbyana. The item in question describe's a restaurant manager's reaction at seeing a large gathering of gypsies quickly setting up a fairground in front of his hotel....

> "As variegated a cross-section of humanity as one could hope to find....clearly enjoying themselves with the notable exception of the restaurant manager who stood on the top of the forecourt steps surveying the scene with the broken-hearted despair and martyred resignation of a Bing watching the Metropolitan being taken over by a hippie festival".

Clearly, the 'Bing' referred to in this extract is not our Bing, but without seeing the item published in the "Daily Express", I'd never have known!

WOULD-BE BING!

by KEN CROSSLAND

In view of the fact that would-be Bings always arouse interest in the magazine, I thought members might be interested in the latest to emerge. He is none other than Ken Goodwin of TV's "The Comedians". No doubt, this will come as a surprise to many.

I first noticed the resemblance to Bing a couple of years ago when Ken, then unknown, sang a snatch of "Alabamy Bound" to conclude his act on a TV show. Now, through his rise to fame, he has recorded an LP. His deep resonant voice is instantly recognisable as being Bing influenced, and his British (Lancastrian) phrasing is like the ghost of Michael Holliday.

The record is entitled "SETTLE DOWN WITH KEN GOODWIN" and track details are as follows:-

When You're Smiling
Did You Ever See A Dream Walking
The Folks Who Live On The Hill
Starry Eyed
Harbour Lights
Wrap Your Troubles In Dreams
Easy Come, Easy Go
Careless Hands
Close To You
All I Do Is Dream Of You
Little Green Apples
Bye Bye Blues

Available on Granada Records, the number is SGTV 1003.

As you can see, all are either Bing or Michael Holliday recordings, some both. The arrangements are often identical - for example, "Little Green Apples" is Bing's beautiful arrangement and "Did You Ever See A Dream Walking" copies the Holliday version.

The purists may greet this news disdainfully; but the state of popular music today needs anything remotely like Bing. Here we have the nearest thing to Bing since Michael Holliday....I possess a near complete Holliday collection to compare this LP with. The next time you are in a record shop, have a listen to this record and see for yourselves. No doubt good sales figures from this LP will bring more recordings from this latest, and most certainly gifted, "Would-be Bing"!

BING IN MADAME TUSSAUDS - CONTINUED!

by NORMAN TOOGOOD

To add a little fuel to the fire our editor started in the last issue of

the magazine, I decided to push Madame Tussauds on my own behalf, in an effort to persuade them to consider including Bing in the exhibition. I wrote a long letter to Mr.Gatacre, the General Manager, deploring the situation, and received the following reply.....

Dear Mr.Toogood,

You are quite right about Bing Crosby being a serious omission, and it is one of which we are very conscious. You can imagine how great the pressure is on us to make new portraits and how difficult the choice is - it is often dictated by whom our sculpture can see. Who knows? Perhaps one day we will get round to remedying the Crosby gap. We will certainly keep him very much at the top of our list.

Yours sincerely,
E.V.GATACRE

I think all members of the ICC should keep up the pressure on them, and we might get some action.

FRANK ASHURST writes:

Regarding Bing in the waxworks, years ago he was in the exhibition at Blackpool. The catalogue stated, "Bing Crosby, the popular American crooner and film star. Born Tacoma, Washington, on May 2nd. 1904. His first film was "Broadway Melody". He is one of the highest paid film stars." It wasn't a very good likeness, though!

(EDITOR's comment: Notwithstanding the incorrect statement about his first film, it must be pointed out that the seaside waxwork exhibitions bearing the name of "Tussauds" have no connection with the exhibition in Marylebone Road, London. To quote from their 1969 catalogue: "Seventy years ago, there was an Exhibition of Waxworks in every big town and at every fair or seaside resort - 190 in Britain, 200 on the East Coast of the USA. From this period, Madame Tussaud's Exhibition in London, and the Musee Grevin in Paris are the principal survivors, although many smaller unconnected exhibitions have sprung up from time to time - sometimes misleadingly using the name "Tussaud". Only very rarely is work shown outside the Exhibition building in London".)

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THE INTERNATIONAL AL JOLSON SOCIETY was formed over 20 years ago following the death of Al Jolson in October 1950. As the years pass by it grows in numbers and strength as more and more people come under the spell of the Jolson magic. It is a potent magic that is timeless and contemporary.
The English Branch is particularly active and each year in October our efforts culminate in our Annual General Meeting which affords a wonderful day of films and photographic and record displays plus the chance to see many rare items of Jolson memorabilia belonging to members.
The Jolson Journal is published from Canada once a year and it consists of 60 pages plus many photographs and interesting articles. Membership costs £1.00 which covers three journals plus occassional news letters, etc. As a member of the society you will be able to obtain tapes and photographs at reasonable prices.
Al Jolson and Bing Crosby, two of the finest entertainers the world has ever known, joined forces many times on radio with outstanding results, and many Jolson society members also belong to the ICC.
We would be happy to welcome you into membership of our Society and application should be made to newly-appointed English Representative GEOFF WARNE, 21 BLADINDON DRIVE, BEXLEY, KENT, DA5 3BS.

CELLULOID CROSBY

by KEITH PARKINSON

One of Bing's better Paramount movies was "Rhythm On The River". Although I wasn't around to see it on its original release, I have the soundtrack on tape and I've seen the film three times on BBC television. By 1940, the year the film was made, Bing had been commanding between 100,000 and 150,000 dollars a single picture for a few years, together with a small handful of stars such as Cary Grant, Ronald Colman, Carole Lombard and Gary Cooper. For that money Paramount made sure that their dollars were well spent and Crosby was always supported by talent of the calibre of W. C. Fields, Bob Hope, Dorothy Lamour and Fred Astaire, all of whom could carry a movie on their own. But back to "Rhythm On The River", in which Bing was supported by the talents of trumpeter Wingy Manone amongst others.

In 1948 Wingy's life story was published by Doubleday in New York. The title of the book was "Trumpet On The Wing" and it was written with the help of Paul Vandervoort II. Wingy dwells on the making of that film. Bing's brother Larry had been corresponding with Wingy and eventually suggested that Wingy took part in Bing's next picture - "Rhythm On The River". Wingy had always vowed not to set foot in Hollywood and on a previous occasion had told Bing that California was inhabited by squares. Larry's letter resulted in Wingy making the trip to the film colony for long enough to make the picture but as things turned out, he remained in California for many years.

Wingy mistimed his arrival and in the Spring of 1940 he killed three months waiting for the script to be finalised by playing for Bing's guests at the Del Mar race track. He played other dates at Bing's instigation and in this connection he highlights Bing's flair for practical jokes. This is how Wingy relates it:

> "Bing had me bring the band down to Rancho Santa Fe from Hollywood, to play for a dance. "Be sure to get there early", he told me. "We're having ham barbecue, with sweet potatoes and hot biscuits". Man, I was there before early. We sat down at a picnic table, and a guy in a white jacket came around to take my order. He was the lousiest waiter I ever saw. First he forgot to bring me a glass of water, then I had to ask for a knife and fork. The guy at the coffee urn was just as bad. I got sore and really ordered them around. I was getting such horrible service I called Bing over and complained to him. "Man, what kind of help have you got around here? These waiters don't jump". I thought he was too easy going with them. That night, however, I really got my eyes open, when I looked off the bandstand and saw my waiter dancing by with a beautiful movie broad. "Why do you permit that waiter to dance with the guests?" I asked Bing. He laughed his head off and finally told me it was all a gag. The guy at the coffee urn had been Paul Lukas, and the guy who had waited on me was Edmund Lowe. When Bing told me who they were I wanted to slip out of there and run like a bastard, but he wouldn't let me. "They got more kick out of it than you did", he laughed."

There's another anecdote in the book about the fire that burned Bing's home one Christmas. The one armed Wingy was invited to a party and went out to view the ashes at the Crosby home. Bing was delving into the ruins to see what had been saved when Wingy discovered the partly burned clothes closet. Bing had a lot of sport jackets hanging in the closet and by some strange quirk only the right arms had been burned off the jackets. So Wingy, in an attempt to cheer Bing, grabbed the jackets with his one arm - the left one - and hollered, "Hey, man, these are for me". Wingy doesn't let us know Bing's reaction.

When filming started on "Rhythm On The River", Wingy became bored with sitting around the Paramount lot for hours on end waiting for a call

to the set. He used to laze around playing cards with Harry Barris and other actors or spend his time with Bing in the latter's dressing room making bets on horses. During lunchtime the pair would discuss horses in the commissary. This way of life went on for five weeks, which is the duration for which Wingy worked on the film, and in the book Wingy remarks, "I began to think we were making a picture about horses instead of music". When Wingy was appearing on Bing's "Kraft Music Hall" radio programme, Bing called one of his horses 'Swingy Wingy', and the steed won quite a few races under Bing's colours.

The standout scene of "Rhythm On The River" as far as I was concerned was the jam session at the pawn shop. A story about the shooting of this illustrates the attitude fellow actors adopted towards Bing. When director Victor Schertzinger prepared to shoot Wingy said, "Let's wait till the boss gets here". As director, Schertzinger naturally regarded himself as boss, but not one part of the scene was rehearsed until Bing was brought from the golf course.

And now to come right up to date. In March of this year Granada Television screened the first of a series under the collective title "Mystery Movie". Each show stars either Rock Hudson, Dennis Weaver or Peter Falk, and I understand that the programme is to run for 18 weeks. The series was taken up by London Weekend Television from April and it seems that everyone in the UK will eventually be able to see what is already a very popular programme in the States. My interest extends no further than watching Peter Falk in the part of Lieutenant Columbo every third week. Crosby followers may remember Falk's part as a gangster in "Robin And The Seven Hoods". The character of Columbo was first seen in this country in a BBC "Hollywood Premiere" feature in 1969 in a movie called "Prescription: Murder" and Falk made his debut as the cop at that time. So what has all this got to do with Bing? Well, Universal, the film studio responsible for producing the television films originally wanted Bing for the part now beautifully played by Falk. Bing was playing golf when Falk got hold of the script and although he knew the part called for an older man, Falk decided to go after the role Universal still wanted for Bing, but he was involved in a golf tournament so Falk eventually got the part. Falk aptly summed up the situation when he said, "It was my luck that Crosby likes to play golf".

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The following items are now available exclusively to members of the ICC....

ICC WIRE BLAZER BADGES (with either black or navy blue background)	£3.20 each
ICC 'AUTOMOTIF' CAR BADGES (for either grille or bar fitting)	£2.20 each
ICC TIES (in navy blue)	90p each

Help to "spread the good word" by purchasing one or more of these club products. Your invaluable efforts in 'plugging' the ICC will be well appreciated. Each one of these superb items bears the special full-colour emblem of the ICC, and is manufactured to the highest possible standards.

All prices include postage. Allow approximately eight weeks for delivery. Cash with order, please, to:

THE BADGE CENTRE, 24 ROPERGATE, PONTEFRACT, YORKS. (Tel: 2351)

(Extra postage on overseas orders)

EXCHANGE

Free advertising for members wishing to buy, sell or exchange items of Crosbyana

O F F E R S I N V I T E D

US Decca 5-LP set "Bing - A Musical Autobiography" complete with booklet and in excellent condition. Also approximately 30 Crosby song-sheets - send air-mail stamp for details of these. Closing date: July 1st 1972. JIMMY JOHNSON, 3332 KENSINGTON AVENUE, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, 23221, USA.

One copy of the Longines Symphonette Society's LP "Bing Crosby's All Time Hit Parade" in mint condition. This includes the original "Where The Blue Of The Night" along with nine other vintage standards. RICHARD MUIRHEAD, 172 COLINTON MAINS DRIVE, EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND, EH13 9BW.

F O R S A L E O R E X C H A N G E

The following US albums from "Bing's Hollywood" series, to be sold at £1.50 each (new copies) and £1 each (N-minus copies), but would prefer to swap for "wants":-

(New condition) DL-4253 "East Side Of Heaven"
DL-4255 "Only Forever"
DL-4259 "Blue Skies"
DL-4264 "Anything Goes"
(N-minus cond.) DL-4252 "Pocketful Of Dreams"
DL-4259 "Blue Skies"
DL-4263 "Zing A Little Zong"
DL-4264 "Anything Goes"

My "wants" are as follows:-
"They Sold A Million" Brunswick EP's:
OE 9421, OE 9422, OE 9423, OE 9424, OE 9430.
"To Bing From Mike" Columbia LP, 33SX 1426.
"Going Hollywood" Volume 3 and
"Bing And Budie...Cole That Is" Aus.CCL albums.
Reprise 45-singles:
R 283 "Don't Be A Do-Badder"
R 317 "We Wish You The Merriest"

Back issues of "BING" magazine, nos. 1, 6, 9, 10 and 12.

F. B. WIGGINS, JNR., 5608 NORTH 34th STREET, ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA, 22207.

W A N T E D

UK albums "Thoroughly Modern Bing" and "Bing Sings For Children". Prices and conditions, please, to NORMAN TOOGOOD, 91 CHILTERN GREEN, MILLBROOK ESTATE, SOUTHAMPTON, SO1 4BB.

The Editor, having advertised for a copy of Bing's "Oh Tell Me Why" without any success, now makes the following and final offer: £2 for the 78 rpm version, or £2.50 for the 45 rpm version, in the best possible condition.

THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE is always interested in your Bing Crosby disposals, but good condition is essential.

Please send your lists to the Editor. All letters answered.

F O R S A L E

"Three Billion Millionaires" L.P. (UXL 4). Offers invited. SAE, please, to BERT BISHOP, "TIDEWAY", IMPERIAL AVENUE, MAYLANDSEA, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX.

W A N T E D

"Bing & Louis" L.P. (MFP 1209), "Straight Down The Middle" 78 (Philips PB 817). Please write to ALBERT STEPHENSON, 3 MAYFIELD CLOSE, RADIPOLE LANE, WEYMOUTH, DORSET.

WELL, DID YOU EVAH!

RON MOODY, famous star of the musical "Oliver", did a first-rate impersonation of Bing Crosby in the television series "The Copycats", on Saturday 6th May 1972.

TERRY WOGAN, compere of BBC radio's "Breakfast Special", uses the introduction of Bing's record "Fugue For Tinhorns" to introduce the 'Racing Bulletin' feature each morning.

BING CROSBY has confirmed in a letter to Mr.B.McMahon, of Hounslow, Middlesex, that there used to be a golfer who used garden tools instead of a golf club! Bing writes: "Yse, it's true, there was a famous golfer, John Montague, who belonged to my club in Hollywood. I played lots of golf with him. He was a man of prodigious strength and a very clever manipulator of the ball. One time we played one hole for $5. He used a baseball bat, a shovel and a rake. I hit a pretty good drive down the middle. He took the baseball bat, threw the ball up in the air and knocked it about 320 yards into a trap which guarded the front of the green. I hit a second shot up the green. He went in the trap with a shovel and shovelled the ball, along with a lot of sand, up about four feet from the hole. I putted and missed and he turned the rake upside down and pushed the ball in the hole for a birdie. I paid off, with what grace I could muster. He was an amiable fella. And would have been a good athlete at any sport he took up. I hope this answers your query."

F L A S H !

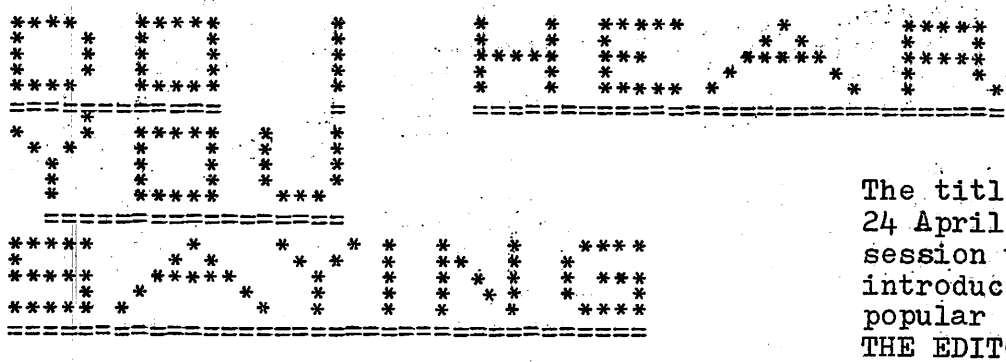
Too late to be featured in "BING ON THE BOX", the following item from Bert Bishop is included here.....

In the BBC-1 "OMNIBUS" programme for Sunday, 7th May, an examination of the exploitation of music for commercial purposes was featured within a programme entitled 'WHATEVER TURNS YOU ON'. Michael Hodern was the commentator with contributions from many well-known personalities. Several television commercials were used to illustrate the theme, and one of them was the Bing Crosby version of "THE 'SHELL' SONG" that he made, gratis, for the Shell Petrol Company. This must date back some 10 years or so since Michael Holliday had also been featured singing the same song. The lyric for Bing's version was changed slightly, and had Jack Hulbert saying: "Hey, I know that voice, it's Bing Crosby". The programme then went into the entire aspect of commercial jingles by some of their composers.

BERT BISHOP

VINTAGE RECORD BAZAAR

The next Vintage Record Bazaar will be held on Saturday, 30th September, at St.Silas Hall, Penton Street, Islington, London, N.1.



The title from Bing's 24 April 1928 recording session with Paul Whiteman introduces one of our most popular features....
THE EDITOR'S POSTBAG

JACK DOUGAN (Northern Ireland) writes: It was interesting to read in the last issue of the magazine, the comments on the film, "Say One For Me". Whilst, of course, it was fitting that Bing should take the lead in the 'Saturday Musicals', I do feel that this film was a poor choice. With the exception of Bing singing the title song 'off screen', and the number entitled "The Secret Of Christmas", I found the film rather slow and boring. The performance of Robert Wagner drove me to despair and I should think that Miss Reynolds would rather care to forget this one! But it was Bing, so I endured it! Personally, I would have been happier to see a repeat of "Blue Skies" which I rate as one of Bing's top musicals, and it certainly gave him scope for his talents as an actor and singer. On Saturday 12th February, in company with Barry Adams and Neil Hunter, I had the pleasure of paying a visit to the home of leading Crosby man Johnny Jones. He extended a warm welcome to this happy trio who were entertained in his "Bing Den". Tapes and records of the 'Master' were played and I would once again extend my thanks to Frank Murphy who sent greetings via tape for this occasion. My afternoon at Ballyhalbert was certainly a memorable one, and my sincere thanks to Johnny, Neil Hunter, and, of course, Barry, who provided the transport. Barry informed me recently that six Bing LP's are shortly to be released on the 'Coral' label. This is indeed great news and I sincerely hope this venture meets with encouraging response from all members. Early sales here could lead to further output of Bing material. My 'Bing Diary' is, rather sadly, being somewhat neglected these days. In the first two months of 1971 I had heard eight recordings of Bing on the radio, but this year the total is almost nil in comparison. Here goes....

Jan.4th "Bells Of St.Mary's" (Charlie Chester)
Feb.10th "McNamara's Band" (Breakfast Special)
Feb.12th "McNamara's Band" (Sam Costa)
Mar.15th "Style" (Breakfast Special)

BRENDA MILES (Surrey) writes: Thank you for the February issue of "BING" which has been read and enjoyed. I found all the articles highly readable and look forward to receiving the May issue. I believe that you have been editor about a year now, and it would appear that by your past efforts, 1972-73 will be a highly entertaining year with the magazine. I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you and the magazine all the best for 1972.

TONY BULMER (Yorkshire) writes: I bought "A Time To Be Jolly" over the Christmas period and consider it to be an excellent album. Incidentally, the local record shop had no less than three copies in stock (quite a number for a small shop!), one of which was prominently displayed in the window. Apparently, all three were bought. "A Time To Be Jolly" rates very highly with me because it fulfils what I consider to be necessary of an LP. It is one polished unit. I find some albums disjointed, such as "Bing Sings For Children", and this often happens when LP's are taken from, and made up of, songs from various sources and other LP's. In my opinion, they don't fit together very well. "Bing Sings The Great Country Hits" is a fine example of what I call a perfect unit. The backing retains a high quality throughout and all the songs belong to the LP. No doubt many people will disagree with me. The backing on "A Time To Be Jolly" reminds me of the type that Dean Martin has been getting for quite a few

years now....the type that the majority of people can enjoy, and perhaps sing along to. I agree with the point that too many of Bing's LP's are not the type which the general public will want to buy. Sure, we want them, but most ICC members will buy anything with Bing's name on it. I would like to see the covers on some of Bing's albums improved (although the Christmas album was very good). For example, Ace Of Hearts "Old Masters", volumes 1, 2 and 3 were very poor covers in my opinion....not the type which would attract the attention of the record buyer. These do not compare with the album entitled "Among My Souvenirs" on the same label, which really caught my attention when I saw it on display. I feel that sometimes Bing is given second-best treatment as far as quality is concerned. Notice the extremely high quality finish on all Elvis Presley, Beatles and (in most cases) Sinatra albums. Plus the fact that they often have posters, lyric sheet inserts, or some other incentive to help them sell well. I would like to see more Crosby Specials especially around Christmas time. Someone writing in one of the weekly television magazines stated that Val Doonican or Des O'Conner had filled the Christmas seat that Mr.Crosby had apparently vacated. Bing has vacated his domain only because the BBC or ITV do not screen his Christmas shows. If they did, nobody could touch him as far as Christmas entertainment goes.

ROY CHAPPELL ("A Touch Of The Bings" - Manchester) writes: The other night in Liverpool a bloke came up to me and said, "You sing just like my cousin" so I said, "Who's your cousin?" and he replied, "Mike Holliday", which made my night!

REG DAVIES (Leeds) writes: It is difficult knowing what to write for the magazine, seeing that so much has been written about Bing's past and present life, and his films and songs. I must say that I have always admired Bing in everything....his way of life, so respectable in his private life compared to a lot of film stars who have married and divorced so many times. Also I admire his thought for others and the hard work he has done in his many years of acting and singing. In my opinion, not enough has been done to show the pleasure and enjoyment he has given to thousands. Publicity has been very poor about him, and one hears so much about other artistes who have not done a quarter of what Bing has done. If it was possible for an award to be given, without a doubt I would give it to Bing. In this country, sporting and entertainment personalities receive awards from the Queen, so why can't Bing get an award from the President of America? I hope it will come in time, and perhaps make people realise that Bing is the greatest artiste of all time.

RALPH HARDING (Editor of "The Crosby Collector")writes: Now that you are entering 1972 and another year of publication, I would like to congratulate you on a marked improvement in "BING". Since you have taken over the reins, the standards have been raised, your presentation has improved almost beyond recognition due to styling and format based on the way my magazine has been styled for the past seven years. Two minds think alike, one might say. The quality has also improved. I am very pleased to see this vast improvement for, as I have always maintained, there is always room for two magazines, and each should always attain the highest possible standards if we both are to do justice to the man and entertainer we all admire. Having said that and given you the credit you deserve, I was very amused to read the letter you published from Bill White (Essex) on page 10 of the last issue. To quote Bill, he wrote, "I must say it ("BING") compares more than favourably with the other magazine devoted to Bing. The layout is neat and easy to read, and in fact you could call it clean, and I like that." Obviously (as there are only two magazines issued about Bing that Bill White subscribes to) the 'other' magazine is "The Crosby Collector" and by direct inference, he is conversely saying that my magazine compares less than favourably with "BING" and that we are dirtier, or if you like, less 'clean'. Bill, of course, is entitled to his opinion and if he really means what he says, I would defend his right to say it to the hilt. But as you, the editor of "BING" and your colleague Reg Bristo are the first to admit, plus several other hundreds of readers, "BING"

magazine does not compare with "The Crosby Collector"....YET. In time, given support and better finances it might well reach the standard of "The Crosby Collector" and even surpass it. In all honesty, I hope it does. I am very much older than you, and while I have experience and knowledge on my side, you have youth on your side and the ability to learn from my magazine and many others who will always help. I can't last forever and perhaps it may not be long (in terms of years) before I find the strain and sheer hard work of producing a quality magazine too much for me. In another seven years, I retire from my work of a Senior Auditor. I do feel that "BING" has made greater progress in the last year than it ever did in the previous ten. As for being 'clean', we have a circulation far in excess of any other magazine devoted to Bing in the world. Included in this circulation are four men of the church, a host of family men and women and many people with high moral standards. If I, as editor, ever fall out of line, they are the first to jump on me. Snowy white we may not be all the time, but we are a controversial magazine and we print the facts even if they are not always palatable to some. 'Dirty' or 'unclean'....NEVER! It all depends on what you mean by 'clean'. Like the advert which displays a beautiful young lady washing her face thoroughly with soap, and then wiping her face with a tissue, revealing grime that a face-wash didn't touch, one can always dig out any grey matter by probing deep enough. I have often meant to print a little notice in my magazine to read..."Any mistakes or controversial items are deliberately printed for the benefit of the minority who delight in finding mistakes and items they object to". But the merits of "BING" comparing more than favourably with "The Crosby Collector" can be argued without any conclusion being reached by readers of "BING". So let us prove my point. As editor of "The Crosby Collector" I am prepared to send a FREE copy of the latest issue (to compare with the latest issue of "BING") to any reader of "BING" who has never seen my magazine. Thus, "BING" readers can judge for themselves and can make up their own minds, without any strings or commitments whatsoever. This offer of a free magazine only applies to those readers who do not subscribe to "The Crosby Collector" or have never seen a copy....for we do not intend to preach to the converted, who number many hundreds. Write to: Ralph S. Harding, "The Crosby Collector", 6 Castledine Road, London, S.E.20 enclosing 6 pence to cover postage, etc. for your FREE copy, an 80 page issue packed with information, well-produced photographs and full-colour covers front and back. If you're not convinced, we'll eat our typewriter, ribbon and all!

(EDITOR's comments: It is obvious that Ralph has missed the entire meaning behind Bill White's letter in the last issue of this magazine. When Bill wrote that he found it 'clean', he was referring to the layout being neat and easy to read, and not to the general contents in comparison with "The Crosby Collector". Apart from this error on Ralph's behalf, I feel that I must disagree with Ralph when he suggests that the styling and format of "BING" has been based on that of his own magazine. This is not so, and furthermore, Ralph contradicts himself in his very next sentence by saying that it is a case of two minds thinking alike. Apart from these two points, I am grateful to Ralph for his appraisal of this magazine since I have taken over as editor.)

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"MEMORY LANE" The magazine on the vintage scene. Each issue covers Jazz/Dance/Personalities from 1920 to 1950 and is packed with articles and photographs. "Memory Lane" is quality printed and published free to all members of the AL BOWLLY CIRCLE (incorporating the ORIGINAL 1930s RECORD SOCIETY). The annual subscription of £1 not only covers "Memory Lane" but also our comprehensive studio tape service. Simply send along £1 (or SAE for more information) to the Secretary, RAY PALLETT, 21 GRANGE ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA, ESSEX, ENGLAND.

THE RICHARD MUIRHEAD COLUMNS

Quarterly Report from Richard Muirhead in Scotland.

My first topic this month must surely be the news of Bing's new LP for "Daybreak", namely "BING 'N' BASIE". As the title suggests, Bing is accompanied on this occasion by The Count Basie Orchestra. Bing certainly appears to have chosen a great selection of new tunes along with a few that are better known by the public. The songs which are new to me are, "Have A Nice Day", "All His Children", "Sugar, Don't You Know" and "Hangin' Loose", coupled with the following, "Sunrise, Sunset", "Little Green Apples" (yet again!), "Gentle On My Mind", "Snowbird", "Everything Is Beautiful", "Gonna Build A Mountain", "If I Had A Hammer", and "Put Your Hand In The Hand". I am really glad to see Bing recording a few of today's better songs, in particular "Sunrise, Sunset", "Everything Is Beautiful" and "Gentle On My Mind". It is pretty clear that this is going to be a phenomenal album and I for one await any news as to its release date. I only hope it is soon. This obviously shows that Bing can still carry a tune with the same attraction to the record-buying public as he had 30 years ago - and long may it continue.

Bing has been absent from the television screen in my region although he was featured on "This Is Your Life" a few weeks ago. On this occasion, Eamonn Andrews had unleashed his famous 'book' on the founder of the African Flying Doctor Service. It seems that Kathy had served under the Doctor in question and he had, through her, become great friends with Bing. The maestro appeared on film looking tanned and very healthy, complete with his usual 'hat' adorned with a multitude of badges. It's about time Bing's life was featured on this programme.

With the recent presentations on television of "Seasons of....." particular artistes' films, I feel it would not be out of place to produce a "Season of Bing Crosby". Perhaps a few of Bing's lesser televised films could be shown, as the companies seem intent on repeating a few films to the point where the viewers can quote the script before the players do!! At the moment, I feel that British Television (both networks) is in need of radical re-arrangement. I only wish I had £1 for every time Laurel and Hardy's "Busy Bodies" has been televised - I'd be a rich man!

It never ceases to surprise me as to where Bing's records turn up. In the past few months, I have obtained four 'Ace Of Hearts' albums and 'Bing's Hollywood' nos.13 and 14 from two record stores in Edinburgh. The peculiar thing is that both of the shops in question specialised in 'hard rock' and underground pop music. Both premises were decked in the usual mass of posters featuring Marc Bolan & Co. along with their accompanying sounds being driven full blast through speaker systems. It only goes to show that a Crosby collector should never pass any record shop, no matter how obnoxious it may appear.

I know I say this every month, but the last issue of "BING" was really superb. In my view it now leads the field in this type of publication. The contents of the February issue covered all the aspects which are likely to interest the collector, and the layout and presentation has also improved. The idea of using asterisks as block headings was certainly impressive, long may they continue!

By the time you receive this issue of the magazine, Bing will have celebrated his birthday. He will now be 68 or 71 (and I must go along with our editor when he says that it's about time this matter was finalised). leaving the matter of age aside, it makes little matter to me as to the correct year Bing was born, as long as he continues to record and sing to the same high standard of recent years. To me, Bing Crosby is like a bottle of champagne - continually mellowing through the years but still possessing the strength and quality of its youth. I am sure all members of the ICC go along with me in wishing Bing a very happy and healthy birthday!

Bing has been featured in a couple of magazines recently, more prominently in the March issue of "Record Collector". A large photograph of

Bing was present on the front cover along with three other pictures of Duke Ellington, Lew Stone and Artie Shaw. Bing was again featured fairly extensively in an article looking at the music of the Thirties. It was also stated that an amount of the material gathered for the text had been taken from a forthcoming book to be published later this year, "The Great Popular Singers" - Bing will surely be prominent here. The maestro was also featured in the March issue of "Films And Filming" where numerous musicals on 8mm were being reviewed. "Blue Skies" and "Sing Bing Sing" were among these and an excellent photograph of Bing from the former film stole the interest on that page.

Well, that's about it for this month. All that's left for me to say is keep an eye open for "Bing 'n' Basie" and here's wishing all readers a "Happy Holiday" season and good hunting on the Crosby scene.

RICHARD MUIRHEAD

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TYPIST's apology!....please substitute "Film Making" for "Films And Filming" in the above text. (7th line down).

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STATESIDE TV REPORT

Compiled by WIG WIGGINS

The following clips from TV GUIDE, a weekly magazine on forthcoming TV programmes which is published on an area basis throughout the United States, gives an idea of the shows which Bing has been in recently, either new programmes or re-runs of older shows. I must say that the week in March when Bing was on three nights in a row was, to say the least, rather out of the ordinary.

Sunday, February 27, 1972, 10 p.m.
(Channels 4, 8, 11, 16 and 25)
BING CROSBY AND HIS FRIENDS Special: Bing, Bob Hope, Pearl Bailey and Carol Burnett: pals, right? Until they're caught in a stalled elevator. It's part of a look at the funny side of friendship, directed by Marty Paseta and choreographed by Robert Sidney. Nick Perito orchestra. (60 minutes). Highlights:

"Desiderata", "In My Own Lifetime" ... Bing.
"Here's That Rainy Day" ... Pearl.
"Saturday Morning Confusion" ... Bing, Carol.
"Little Things We Do Together" ... Carol, Pearl.
"You've Got Good Friends", "What Would We Do Without You" ... All.

Wednesday, March 15, 1972, 8 p.m.
(Channels 2 and 9)
CAROL BURNETT Bing Crosby as a soused father in a take-off on the classic melodrama "The Drunkard", featuring Paul Lynde as the villain and Carol as the daughter. A chapter of "As the Stomach Turns" stars Bing as Father Sarge, patrolman-turned-priest; Paul as Mel Torment, town masochist; and Harvey Korman in drag as a Jewish mother. Vicki Lawrence, Lyle Waggoner, Ernest Flatt dancers, Peter Matz orchestra. (Repeat; 60 minutes).

Highlights:
"Put A Little Love In Your Heart", "Love Thy Neighbour" ... Bing.
"Get Happy", "Sing" ... Bing, Carol.
"Vile Temptation" ... Carol, Dancers.

Thursday, March 16, 1972, 8 p.m.
(Channels 4, 8, 11, 16 and 25)
FLIP WILSON Bing Crosby, Tim Conway and Melba Moore in a look at ... prison life when the wife moves in; a White House janitor (Flip) with income-tax advice; a squabble between a truck driver and a plumber. George Wyle orchestra. (60 minutes).

Highlights:
"Rover", "The End Of A Perfect Day", "Huckleberry Finn" (the first songs Bing sang in public - in 1916) ... Bing.
"Never Can Say Good-by", "Lean On Me" ... Melba.

Friday, March 17, 1972, 7.30 p.m.
(Channel 5)
A LITTLE BIT OF IRISH Special: Bing and Kathryn Crosby present a tribute to Ireland. On hand for location filming: actors Siobhan McKenna and Milo O'Shea, and singers John McNally and Alma Carroll. (60 minutes).

Highlights:
"Molly Malone", "Come Back To Erin" ... Bing.
"Celtic Nightmare" ... Milo.
"Off To Philadelphia" ... John.

Sunday, March 26, 1971, 6.p.m.
(Channel 7)
AMERICAN SPORTSMAN Bing Crosby narrates a touching feature on the Guide Dogs for the Blind School in San Rafael, California. The focus is on a class where blind youngsters learn to work with - and trust - dogs that will serve as their eyes. Host: Curt Gowdy.

May I offer a personal comment about Bing's appearance on the Flip Wilson TV programme on March 16th. I don't know if these programmes are seen in Great Britain or not, but Bing turns up at least once a season on them in the US. For me, the most interesting aspect of Bing's appearance on the March 16th show was a short segment during which Bing mentioned that he had often been asked what were the first songs he had ever sung in public. Bing said he had done a little "research" on this subject, and as far as he could remember he had made his debut at some form of church social around the age of 12 (under his mother's sponsorship).

Bing then did a short, easy-going run through of three songs of the World War I era which he thought might qualify as the "first" ones he had ever sung in public. He started with a light, humorous number entitled "Rover" - about a boy and his dog - nothing spectacular, but a pleasant little song. Then he did one chorus of "one of his mother's favourites" - the song entitled "The End Of A Perfect Day". The last song, "Huckleberry Finn", was unfamiliar, but I was struck both by its catchy, tuneful nature as well as its almost uncanny similarity to many of the so-called "philosophical" songs Bing recorded after he became a major star.

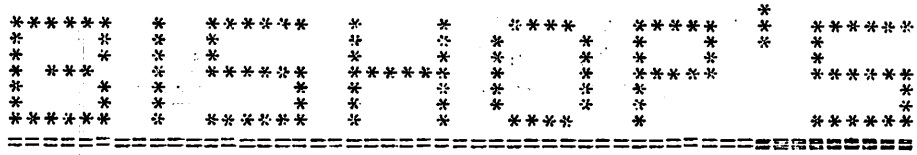
The thrust of "Huckleberry Finn" is that it would be nice to live a happy, carefree life like 'ole Huck' and not have to worry about the world's problems. There is such a long list of Bing's records that evoke the same mood - "Sing A Song Of Sunbeams", "Hang Your Heart On A Hickory Limb", "My Heart Is A Hobo", "Small Fry", "Lazy Bones", "Gone Fishin'", and the like. I guess you could say that Bing must have had his personal philosophy of life rather well established at a very early age, if songs like "Huckleberry Finn" are any indication.

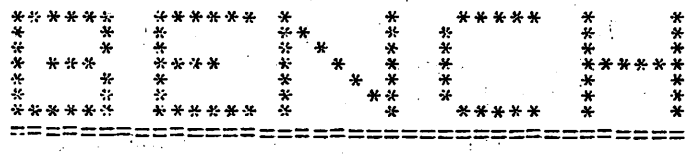
If Bing should ever need some "fresh" recording material, "Huckleberry Finn" would get my vote as worth reviving. Perhaps some of the ICC members who are close to Bing and in direct touch with him might make this suggestion.

Finally, the following two items appeared in the press recently:-

NEWSWEEK, April 3, 1972.
Died: Marilyn Maxwell, 49 Hollywood entertainer, part actress, part singer and all wolf bait; of a heart attack, in Beverly Hills, California, March 20. Honorary pallbearers at her funeral: Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra and Jack Benny.

THE EVENING STAR, March 15, 1972.
Nationally televised annual presentation of "Grammy Awards" .... Louis Armstrong and Mahalia Jackson were honoured posthumously with the Bing Crosby award.





Sit a spell.....
more from the pen
of BERT BISHOP

It's nice to know that as I sit here bashing away at this typewriter that the end product will be read and digested by someone. Hence I am grateful to two readers who took the trouble to write in to the 'Editor's Postbag' apropos previous articles concerning Bing's unbilled gag spots and film references.

I'm particularly indebted to Lionel Pairpoint for explaining the meaning and significance of the expression, "Go sell your rack shellac", that Bing 'throws' at Bob Hope in the film "PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE". 'Rack', teeth; 'shellac', toothpaste. Simple when you know how..... thanks Lionel.

Thank you, Jack Dougan, for enlightening me, and perhaps others, on the appearance of Bing in a brief gag spot in Bob Hope's film "PARIS HOLIDAY", also starring Fernandel. Certainly there may be other Hope films that include a jibe at Bing that I had not mentioned, but I thought that I had covered the unbilled appearances. By writing these little articles points are raised for discussion and knowledge gleaned, so I hope readers will continue to correct my errors and fill in the blank spaces for the benefit of all.

Jack mentions other films in which reference to Bing is made which it was my intention to review at some future date; the previous articles concerning Bob Hope films only. Further to the ones Jack refers to and which have not been mentioned in 'BING ON THE BOX' are "ANGELS IN THE OUTFIELD", 1951, and "SCARED STIFF", 1953. Then there was the very much earlier, 1943 film, "HIGHER AND HIGHER"; a musical comedy that starred Michele Morgan, Jack Haley and Frank Sinatra. More of these at some future date, I hope.

Now that America has embraced Charlie Chaplin after his 20 year exile, it seems that they cannot do enough to compensate for their portion of the 'six of one, half-dozen of the other' rupture that caused the 'great little man' to depart the shores that brought him fame.

Following the award of the special 'Oscar' that was presented to him for the "incalculable effect" his films have had on movie making, Hollywood's Chamber of Commerce and City Council have elected to place his commemorative star on Hollywood Boulevard's "Walk Of Fame" - it will be placed next to Bing Crosby's. Such juxtoposition could hardly be more appropriate; the king of 'silents' and the king of sound.

It's one of those fascinating aspects of life that as the years tick by, certain words, phrases or expressions that you are acquainted with, or are maybe just vaguely aware of, suddenly have their true meaning or origin revealed when all around you seem to have known them all the time.

One such, for me, was the expression 'middle-aisling'. This came about when I was reading the obituary of the famous American columnist and broadcaster, Walter Winchell, who died in February at the age of 74. Apparantly he coined many a 'Winchellism', as they are known, 'infanticipating' for the expectant mother, 'Reno-vating' for divorcing, and the aforementioned 'middle-aisling' for getting married, etc.

When I read this latter expression I immediately thought, 'Oh, so that's what Bing sings in the song "Takes Two To Make A Bargain"!' Now you may think that I am a bit dim but ever since I originally heard Bing

vocalising on this Mack Gordon - Harry Revel ballad, as catchy a musical marriage proposal as you are ever likely to hear, I had never quite caught on to what Bing was actually singing in the second line of the third verse. Remember how it goes?

With Cupid as our pilot
Say, I would like to middle-aisle it
Takes two to make a bargain
How's about it, baby?

Well, now I know....I really must get myself a dictionary of American slang! Actually, there used to be one other word that foxed me in this set of lyrics. This occurs in the last verse where Bing sings, tongue-in-cheek I fancy, the following couplet:

Ohh, I would like a junior
I'd bring him up to be a croonior....

Obviously this is Bing's deliberately distorted pronunciation of 'crooner' sung to rhyme with 'junior' - a sly dig at the composers one feels for a clever lyric which, nevertheless, has its fair share of poetic licence. This song along with the four others from the film "TWO FOR TONIGHT" is noted on the "Bing's Hollywood" LP series, BING 1, as being "one of the best movie scores of 1935"....I couldn't agree more.

By a happy coincidence that song, "Takes Two To Make A Bargain", gives me an appropriate opportunity to reveal to the members of the ICC who do not already know that our hard working Editor, John, has actually produced this magazine during the manifestly busy month preceeding his wedding on June 10th.

If, as I'm sure he will, he makes as good a job of his marriage as he has the editing of "BING" since taking over then the very best wishes for success and happiness that I tender on behalf of all the 'Circle' members will seem superfluous. Here's health and good fortune to you, John and Susan, as you "sign on that dotted line...."

BERT BISHOP

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Thanks, Bert! - Ed.

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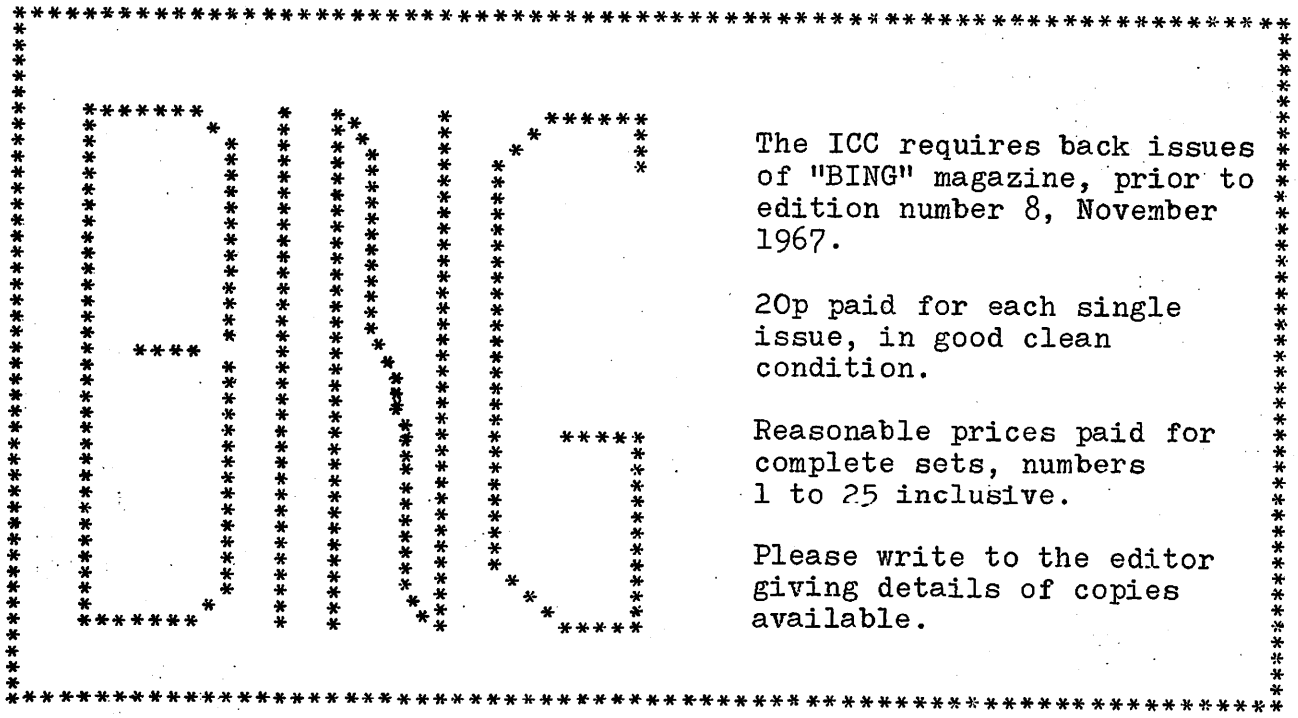

The ICC requires back issues of "BING" magazine, prior to edition number 8, November 1967.
20p paid for each single issue, in good clean condition.
Reasonable prices paid for complete sets, numbers 1 to 25 inclusive.
Please write to the editor giving details of copies available.

OBITUARY

The ICC is grieved to report the death of Mr. Stanley Davis of Southampton, in March this year at the age of 59. Stan, a new member of our club, had been corresponding with Bing, regarding the possibility of his visit to Southampton.

Norman Toogood, who informed Bing of the sad news, has received the following reply:

Dear Mr.Toogood,

Thank you for your letter. I am saddened by the news it contained - the passing of Mr.Stanley Davis. He was a very loyal supporter of mine, took a keen interest in my career, and I'm sure, took a great part in maintaining my stature in the British Isles.

We had been in correspondence relative to the possibility of my coming to Southampton on the 55th anniversary of the song, "Bells Of St. Mary's", and I still haven't worked out a schedule in connection with the possibility of making such a visit.

But I might have a better idea in the late spring.

Very best regards to you and your family.

As ever,

(signed)Bing.

MEETS

by KEN CROSSLAND

Mr. C. and Mr. C. ; both top crooners for over 30 years. They met on television twice within a fortnight, 12 years ago, and produced two remarkable shows. Many members, I am sure, will (like me) be dual admirers. For this reason, I have chosen to highlight these shows which I recently obtained on tape (for which I will be eternally grateful to Bob Roberts).

The first show was Bing's with Perry guesting. It contained no fewer than 28 songs, all duets between America's two finest singers. We are greeted with "Zing A Little Zong" and then the two C's give us a medley of "lazy" songs, e.g. "Gone Fishin'". In between, Perry is crying for something to sit down on. Bing relents, but only on one condition:

BING: "I hope you're not gonna show off tonight and sing much better than me".

PERRY: "I wouldn't do that, Bing....even if I could!"

Next we are treated to a medley of Maurice Chevalier songs, four in all, before Bing remarks that they have never made an album together. "Let's do it now then", replies Perry, and no sooner said than done, Bing and Perry are "recording" a medley of 17 marvellous songs: "Rosie", "Dinah", "Gigi", "I Found A Million Dollar Baby", "Bob White", "Chicago", "Two Sleepy People", and others too numerous to mention.

BING: "Think we got enough for an album, there?"

PERRY: "About one side....come on my show sometime and we'll do the other side".

BING: "How about March 17. I'm in the east then shooting "High Time".

PERRY: "It's a date".

Track 2 of the tape gives me this show. We hear an announcer say, "Welcome to Perry Como's Kraft Music Hall. And now, take it away, Mr.C". The smooth theme "Dream Along With Me" reaches our ears....sung by Bing, who follows this up with "Cool, Cool, Cool Of The Evening", whilst his host apparently stands by helpless!
"Can I help you?" breaks off Bing.
"No....just browsing", retorts Mr.Como.
"Are you in show-business?" asks Bing.
"Until 5 minutes ago" comes the humorous reply.

This opening sequence gives way to a scene with the two stars comparing the songs of 1960 unfavourably with the songs written with taste in the days of their youth. Superbly ironic as they demonstrate their meaning with a medley of such things as "Yes, We Have No Bananas", "Abadaba Honeymoon", "Constantinople", "Collegiate" and others.

Being St.Patrick's Day, it is not unnatural to find an Irish medley performed by the entire cast of the show. Bing solos on "McNamara's Band" and "Too-ral-loo-ral-loo-ral".

We then have the second side of the "album"....17 more great songs, bringing the total to 34 for this show. This time, we are treated to "Blue Skies", "It's A Lovely Day Today", "Mountain Greenery", and many more, before they both lapse into their theme songs. Bing comments on Perry's, "Boy, you can still soar, can't you?"

The show closes as it begun with "Cool, Cool, Cool Of The Evening" and "On Behalf Of The Visiting Fireman". Thus, two marvellous pieces of television are complete.

It's a pity that the "album" never materialised. Recordings clearly were made, evidenced by the instructions for mikes to be set up before both the long duets, and more-so by the play-back which is given at the end of each show. I think probably, the recordings were too short, each lasting about 10 minutes. I don't think recording contracts were the obstacle as Bing was freelancing at this time.

Nevertheless, both shows come over very well on tape and I value them highly in my collection. I didn't see either of the shows....I was too young at the time (about 6) but I believe the Como one was shown here if not both. One can only hope that these two strolling players will get together again and provide us with a third show in 1972. I guess I'm just never satisfied!

KEN CROSSLAND

LETTER TO LESLIE GAYLOR from LARRY CROSBY

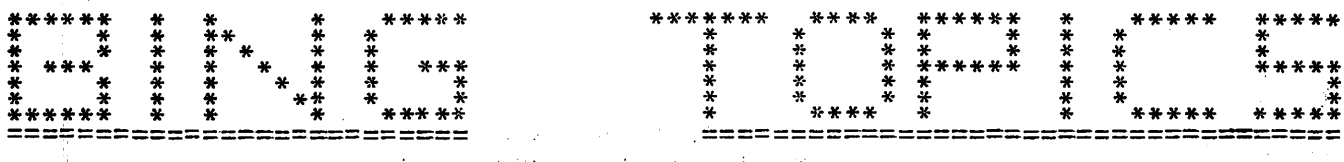
February 22, 1972.

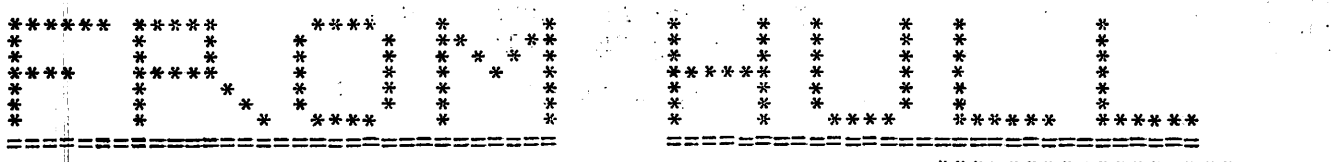
Dear Leslie:
Since the golf tournament Bing has been quail hunting in Texas and is now fishing in Mexico.
He is due here next week for a guest spot on the Flip Wilson TV show.
He has been doing a recording session with Count Basie.
There is no truth in the Palladium appearance.
Our golf tournament went great - fine weather, big crowds and about a half million gross with the net to youth charities. Again the TV rating was larger than any golf event.

Sincerely,

(signed) Larry.

The Bing Crosby Golf Tournament was televised by NBC network on January 16th and 17th, and watched in an estimated number of 9,680,000 homes. There are an estimated 60.1 million TV sets in the United States!





by ALF FARROW

I am looking at the Grand National and trying to type this article at the same time! I wonder how many of you backed the winner? My fancy is "Well To Do" and as this is the one and only race I have a flutter on, I hope to pick up a bob or two! ..... That space denotes when the race was running! And stone the crows, I backed the winner!

Well, back to Crosbyana, although racing is part of Crosbyana, as we all know, ain't it? So I am not transgressing really, am I? During the power cuts I, along with thousands of others, had to listen to radio, and one programme interested me very much. "Beat The Record" was the programme and in it they played bits of tunes which had to be named by competitors over the telephone. If they named the tune correctly, they had a guess at the 'accumulator' tune which, if not guessed, went up each time by £5 in premium bonds. The 'accumulator' one night was "It Must Be True" as played by Carmen Cavellero in "The Eddie Duchin Story". I knew it, along with hundreds more Bingateers, and I sent a card in to the BBC but it wasn't lucky enough to be drawn out of the drum. "It Must Be True" went to the limit of £100 and nobody guessed it, so it was shelved to be saved for an airing in a later programme.

A recent showing of a series of Elvis Presley films interested me very much, and although I am not a Presley follower by any means, some of the tunes in the films were very nice to say the least. And in one of the films it was pleasing to see Gary Crosby looking so much like his Dad!

In a programme called, I think, "Dreams And Their Meaning", a person recounted a dream which he had every month without fail. He dreamed that he would be sitting in a room for no reason at all and the door would open, and no less a person than Bing Crosby would enter with a small polythene bag in his hand. Bing would then walk up to the dreamer and say, in his usual deep Crosby voice, "Will this help you?", hand him the bag and saunter out, as only Bing can saunter.....strange? Strange indeed!

"This Is Your Life" recently gave us a 60 second look at Bing on film, looking, in my opinion, very fit and well, and giving a very high appraisal of the subject's work as a surgeon and the founder of the great "Flying Doctor" service in Africa. The surgeon was Michael Wood, and his expression, as he listened to Bing, was one of great affection.

Grateful as I am to see Bing's films on TV - happy to see <u>any</u> film of his, but what about films like "Dixie", "Double Or Nothing", "Doctor Rhythm", "The Star Maker", "Star Spangled Rhythm", "Here Comes The Waves", and going back to 1934, "She Loves Me Not"? I'd be tickled pink to see those again!

An old friend, Ted Mole, writes to tell me that during the early war years, he was at a small hutted camp training troops on anti-dive bomb weapons. He had a wind-up portable gramophone, and a few records with him, one of which was Bing and Connie Boswell singing "Start The Day Right". The orderly Sergeant used to borrow this and march round the camp with the record playing, as there was one significant line, "Come and get it, breakfast is there". Another of Bing's discs which was very popular with the officers was "The Star-Spangled Banner"....they almost stood up and saluted whenever they heard it! On that note, I'll say cheers for now!

BING-BUYER'S CORNER

Latest double-LP package to be imported and made available in specialist record shops is "THE BEST OF BING" from American Decca. The set costs just over £5 and includes the following 24 titles:

Where The Blue Of The Night (L 3897-A, 17th July 1945 version)
Swinging On A Star
June In January (Take B)
You Are My Sunshine
It's Been A Long, Long Time
McNamara's Band
The One Rose (Take A)
Sweet Leilani (Take B)
I'm An Old Cowhand
It's Easy To Remember
Don't Fence Me In
Sunshine Cake
I Can't Begin To Tell You
Mexicali Rose
The Whiffenpoof Song
Play A Simple Melody
White Christmas (1947 version, as usual!)
Dear Hearts And Gentle People
Galway Bay
In The Cool, Cool, Cool Of The Evening
Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-Ral
Sam's Song
Now Is The Hour

Only the first track is of any real importance to the serious collector, as its appearance on microgroove is quite a rare occurrence. The remaining titles have all been re-issued previously in many forms. The album, number DXSB 7184, can be obtained from Harlequin Record Shops, 119 New Bond Street, London, W.1.

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S T O P P R E S S

+ The May 1972 issue of "THE ESSEX COUNTRYSIDE" features, on page 27, a photograph of the porch of St.Mary The Virgin at Dedham in Essex. As members will know, this church was 'linked up' with Bing's famous 1955 radio programme, "A CHRISTMAS SING WITH BING", when the choir of St. Mary's sang the carol "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen".

+ The April 1972 issue of "GOLF MONTHLY" includes a short article about Bing, together with a photograph of the Maestro in action.

+ Members will please note the editor's new address as from the appearance of this issue of "BING".

+ All enquiries relating to any advertisements or announcements in Reg Bristo's section of the magazine, should be addressed to Reg and not to the editor. Members not observing this small procedure in connection with one of Reg's recent projects, created some degree of confusion, costing your humble editor both time and money!

+ New member, Mr.Lee Argent of 365 Somercotes, Laindon, Basildon, Essex, urgently requires the soundtrack LP's of "Lord Jim" (Colpix) and "The Battle Of The Bulge" (Warner Brothers). Can anybody help Lee with this non-Bing request?

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* THE REMAINDER OF THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN COMPILED AND TYPED BY OUR SECRETARY *
****

1930's Record Society: Keighley Branch
STEPHANE GRAPPELLY AT "FAB. 30'S BALL", KEIGHLEY, Oct. 8, 1971

Left to Right: Don Williamson,(Chairman), Arthur Fortune, Vice-Chairman; Stephane; Reg Bristo; Sid Townend, Hon.Secretary)

REVIEWS

Bing has his OSCAR STOLEN! - The Golf tournament is as big as ever, especially in TV ratings - a young lady from Britain, forsooth, tells Bing he should come here and do a concert - Bing cuts a new album with the redoubtable Count Basie - and there's a letter in the National press from the equally redoubtable LESLIE GAYLOR proudly proclaiming the fact - Bing making a totally unexpected and unannounced appearance in THIS IS YOUR LIFE on British television - letters in the papers, including GRANDAD OF THE POPS!

So much happening in fact its difficult to know where to begin!

Ah! There's the rub, as that playwright from Stratford-on-Avon once remarked... I do know where to start!

12½p is 2/6d - not 22½p. 12½p is 2/6d - not 22½p;
12½p is 2/6d - not 22½p. 12½p is 2/6d - not 22½p.

But you don't really want me to write it out 500 times, do you, as one humorist suggested? I don't think there can be anyone who knows not to what I refer - but in case there is just ONE, in the last issue of BING I said I had some glossy pictures of Bing, intended for use as covers but made obsolete by a change in paper-size, available at 22½p (2/6d) per set! Frameable pictures, too.

Well, most of you settled for 12½p - which of course, is exactly what I MEANT. A few generous readers went the other way, and I therefore "robbed" them of 10p. I tried to redress this by sending them two sets of the pictures.

But, I've got to master this devilish new currency! NEW! Seriously, I'm sorry about this absurd slip and will see it doesn't happen again - even if we have to get a real cost-clerk in!

There are just a few more of these pictures left - so if you want them I hope the cost is now clear! 12½ per set....

Absolutely delighted as I was to learn that Bing was to make a new album I nevertheless felt a stab of apprehension when it was revealed that it would be recorded with the backing of the Count Basie Orchestra! Now the Basie orchestra is undoubtedly one of the most famous in the world - has been for about 35 years, in fact, though probably seeing through a succession of instrumentalists over the years - but it is not what one might remotely describe as a melodious outfit. A driving, punchy, aggressive sounding band capable of tremendous swing and rhythm and no little subtlety in its interpretations. But NOT, I would say, the ideal outfit to accompany the world's greatest balladeer, or indeed, the world's finest rhythmic singer.

I was seriously alarmed at the prospect of another frantic, frentic, battle between Bing and a brash accompaniment. In short, I had horrible fears creeping in on me of another Buddy Bregman instrumental punch-up! That album still tears my nerves to shreds. I don't know what it did to Bing!

If I'm not in a minority with this view of the so-called "modern" backings I do know that many do not agree with me: why should they? It can be asserted, even argued, that that "Bing Sings While Bregman Swings" was a meritorious move to "stay with it" - that is, the modern "scene". I will accept, of course, that Bing's contribution which Bregman strove to overpower by sheer, staccato volume was essentially Bing and thereby saved the album to an extent.

And as my regular readers may remember, I rate Billy May not far behind Bregman in his monumental miscalculation as to the sort of accompaniment Bing - or for that matter, any singer - needs. The El Senor Bing album comprised a nice repertoire - but its connection with Latin American style (ostensibly the theme of the album) was so remote as to escape notice. They could have used, for example, mariachi trumpets - something on the lines of Herb Alpert, perhaps, with the same restrained yet insistent rhythms. I still get the feeling that some of the tempos and arrangements Billy May used made Bing apprehensive. They make me flinch. A cordial note from Mr. Pairpoint of London, NW7 gently chided me for my comments on Billy May - who is a considerable figure in the popular music world, and a brilliant trumpet man himself. But not for me - well, not with Bing, to be precise!

So - Count Basie and Bing. Fmmm: we can only wait - and hear! Les Gaylor, of course, is the man who keeps us right up-to-date on Bing's recording (and other) activities having a reliable correspondent in Larry Crosby himself. From Leslie comes encouraging news: that he heard the Basie album on a late night radio programme! Some tracks of it, of course, and he says that the band doesn't sound noisy and brash. Well, that's certainly nice to hear. Don't misunderstand me, I can revel in the Count playing "One O'Clock Jump" and scores of other numbers - its only fears of the vocal struggle a singer may be subjected to when he is providing the backing!

But, did you notice what I just said? The Basie album - WITHOUT BING! Well, that's how I read Leslie's note, for he said:

> "...heard the Basie only LP on Alan Dell's Big Band Sound this week. Arrangements by Sammy Nestico. Really nice sound, not brassy. If it's (Bing's) LP is the same it will be good...."

Now, I don't know whether this was ANOTHER current Basie album, or whether Count Basie and the Orchestra have recorded their part and Bing dubs his singing on afterwards? These modern recording techniques baffle me: seems the engineers deliberately set themselves a rebalancing problem by recording all sections of the orchestra and the singer virtually separately. I have never found much wrong with the results of old-fashioned recording whereby the band and the singer were in the studio, the band played and the singer sang, back with the inspiration of the musicians supporting him. Singing to pre-recorded tapes sounds a soul-less proceeding to me. Still, I suppose I will be challenged to tell the difference....and would fail! Yet, before I knew Bing's vocals were "dubbed" on the Longines set I always felt that Bing did NOT sing on these tracks with his usual flair, his usual "sympathy" with the songs.

I shall be very happy to eat my words if Bing/Basie turns out to be a thumping good, melodious, album. For certain I will. I'm wondering if our Editor has included the titles of the album earlier in this issue? I imagine he has (he doesn't miss much!) but just in case, here they are: Have A Nice Day; All His Children; Sunrise, Sunset; Little Green Apples(!); Gentle On My Mind; Snowbird;

Everything is Beautiful; Gonna Build a Mountain; If I Had A Hammer; Sugar, Don't You Know?; Put Your Hand In The Hand; Hangin' Loose.

It's a case of "second time around" for "Little Green Apples" - it also appeared on the HEY JUDE album you remember, but will again be a popular choice. A good song for Bing...."Gentle On My Mind" ditto. We've got the "Sunrise, Sunset" number, most of us I imagine, from the TV show of a couple of years back.

I notice there are twelve titles listed in the recording company's studio sheet tho' the American practice nowadays is to present only ten titles on an album. It remains to be seen whether, in fact, the twelve will all be on the record. I must say that the titles looking interesting and, mainly, musical so - perhaps this is going to be an album to set us alight again!

Seems I have been unduly critical again on my "hobby-horse" of incongruous accompaniments and will no doubt get the backlash! It can be argued with equal force that it would be just as incongruous, TODAY, to go back to Georgie Stoll, Lennie Hayton, John Scott Trotter, the McIntires, the Paradise Island Trio and others - those which strove to produce their melodious best for the immaculate melodiousness of the Maestro's voice. The warm, so-easy-on-the-ear accompaniments which today would be dismissed out-of-hand for MASS sales - and of course, that's the only reason they make records, isn't it? Have I ever mentioned in these pages that I have a real passion for Latin American music? I don't mean ordinary bands playing rumbas and sambas, tho' some of them are pleasant enough. The music I have such a preference for is exemplified by, mainly, Paraguayan groups - of which Luis Alberto del Parana Y Los Paraguayos are the kings though there are others playing wonderful music as I've found out since I started collecting such records.

I have, as a matter of fact, discovered a whole new world of popular music with beautiful songs such as "Maria Dolores", "Mis Noches Sin Ti", "Malaguena", "Noches de Ronda", "Tani, Tani" and scores of others. The Spanish language, it seems to be, is particularly lyrical - aye, romantic if you like! - and lends even greater beauty to these fine, traditional, South American songs - even if you don't know what they are singing about!

And the instrumentation of these groups is so entirely unique: guitars (the accoustic type, not the electronic "tinny" mechanical sounds) plus the harp which is peculiar to Paraguay and one or two other Latin American countries. Furthermore, when listening to these troubadours - which they truly are - one gets the feeling they would love their singing even if no-one was listening! Their striving after harmonic blending with their always complementary voices, is sheer artistry - to my ears. It has, too, a total lack of ultr-sophistication and is perhaps one of the most authentic folk-art forms in music today.

If you are now wondering what the heck this has to do with Crosbyana I won't be surprised...but the connection is there. I've been ranting on about accompaniments, melody, taste, etc., etc., and a possibly impossible dream I have is of Bing singing some of these beautiful songs WITH such an authentic group. Mr. C. of course sings more than adequately in Spanish. Indeed, he has made some great Latin American records - tho' alas, Xavier Cugat his main accompanist on this type of record seems TO ME merely a highly competent orchestra using the exotic percussion of Latin American. Bing singing with the backing of those harmonious voices, PLUS the guitars and harp, would make truly celestial sounds! Songs of the type more popularly known are GUANTANAMERA, CIELITO LINDO, and possibly a truly lovely song - CU-CU-RRU-CU-CU PALOMA, Mexican song about love and life being like a bird, a dove..descriptive, too, it flies away, etc. etc. I believe the nearest Bing got to this sort of accompaniment was with the Banda Lua - "Maria Bonita"

comes to mind. I will concede, too, that this Paraguayan music is possibly an acquired taste. If you're not familiar with it I would recommend a budget album of them on Contour: "LA BAMBA", about 80p. Who knows, perhaps you too would find a whole new sphere of popular music. On this particular album the Paraguayans adapt their style to some songs not Latin American - "Ramona", "Mona Lisa" and one or two others. They give them an entirely new enchantment. And, of course, they play some very lively numbers, with intensely rhythmic guitars, tho it must be said this rhythm has nothing to do with New Orleans! Nevertheless, it is equally irresistible. I suppose every one knows the famous harp solo "Pajaro Campana" which these groups never fail to play: it is a traditional song, or rather, a descriptive piece based on the sound that a bird makes in the grasslands of Mexico. The name means "bell bird", incidentally.

As I say, its a dream of mine to hear Bing singing in such company. And likely to remain a dream, I fear. Tho' the Luis Alberto group is truly international and frequently record in America.

RETURNING TO MORE POSITIVE CROSBYANA:

* * * * * * * * * *

PERRY BOTKIN

Perry Botkin was the Crosby accompanist dealt with in the series "Bing Accompanied By...." in the last issue, No. 14 in the series. I was delighted when my good friend PETER TANNER was kind enough to let me have some more information about Perry to add to the material in the last issue. Peter writes:

PERRY BOTKIN, leader, arranger, banjo player, guitarist - and violinist, Perry was all these at one time or another!

Perry's association with Bing Crosby commenced in 1938 - at least, in so far as recordings are concerned. At that time Perry was a member of Victor Young's orchestra and was present on a number of Bing's recordings, notably SMALL FRY and MR. CROSBY AND MR. MERCER (Mr. Gallagher & Mr. Shean) which Bing and Johnny Mercer duetted together so successfully (Bruns.02653). For these titles only a small group from Victor Young's orchestra was used. Calling themselves Victor Young's Small Fryers the personnel included, in addition to Perry Botkin, Andy Secrest on cornet and Spike Jones on drums.

Perry was also present as a member of John Scott Trotter's orchestra when it accompanied Bing and Connie Boswell on BETWEEN 18th AND 19th ON CHESTNUT STREET, recorded in December, 1939 (Bruns.02974) and on a number of subsequent recordings with Bing including RHYTHM ON THE RIVER, recorded in January 1940, (Bruns. 03092).

As you pointed out Reg, Bing has always been particular about guitarists in his accompanying orchestras ever since the days of Eddie Lang. No doubt he made a mental note of Perry's ability around this time.

You are right Reg in thinking that Perry appeared in BIRTH OF THE BLUES and he was also a member of the orchestra which made the playbacks and final music recordings. He was also employed, I am pretty sure, in a similar capacity on RHYTHM ON THE RIVER.

Perry is no newcomer to the American popular music and jazz scene as his musical career extends back to the middle Twenties. In 1928 he was with Red Nichols for a while and played both banjo and guitar on a number of recordings by a Nichols group calling themselves The Wabash Dance Orchestra specially made for the British market and put out on the Duophone label. These and some others on Duophone on which Perry played with the Dorsey Brothers

orchestra are now collectors' items, particularly since they were never issued in America. In 1929 Perry made some records with a group called The Cotton Pickers which included both Dorseys, Glenn Miller and Arthur Schutt in the personnel. Vocalists were Hoagy Carmichael and Scrappy Lambert. The only one of these with Perry in the personnel which was issued here was a non-vocal version of SOUTH RAMPART ST. PARADE (Brunswick 02505).

In 1931 Perry was back with Red Nichols and is present on a couple of his recording sessions with the Five Pennies. Tunes waxed included YOU RASCAL, YOU (Brunswick 01163). The following year he became a member of Roger Wolfe Kahn's Orchestra and is on many of that orchestra's American Columbia recordings, some of which appeared over here. In 1933 he made a number of recordings with Jack Teagarden's Orchestra.

In the middle Thirties Perry was in great demand as a session man in the New York recording studios. Among those with whom he appeared on records were Chick Bullock, Smith Ballew, Annette Hanshaw, Cleo Brown and the Boswell Sisters.

Also in the middle Thirties Perry can be heard on guitar on the New York recordings made by Victor Young's Orchestra and it is probable that he went to the West Coast with Victor. In Hollywood he established himself again as a session musician and also as an arranger. During the late Thirties and early Forties, in addition to his guitar playing on a number of Crosby records, Perry Botkin can also be heard accompanying such other well known artists as Fred Astaire, Judy Garland, Frances Faye, Ella Logan and Hoagy Carmichael.

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This publication is a most impressive one: it runs to close on 70 pages, of which 59 are the listing of the titles of Bing's records. There is also an A-Z of Bing's musical and vocal accompanists. The whole is secured in a firm, glossy, wrap-around cover, the front of which is adorned with a most tasteful photograph of the maestro. This work will mean all sorts of things to all sorts of people, I imagine. It will settle, for instance, any arguments as to whether or not Bing recorded a certain song. It provides a wonderful saga of musical history with these titles alone...it evokes memories of the world's greatest popular singer and the songs he sang, memories of records which, perhaps, you had once...and lost...and have yet to recapture. Against each title is the year of recording and the accompanist, e.g.

"'44 Trotter"

The weight of the book is 12ozs - which at current postal rates means 84p - and this is included in the all-round price of £1. If you have reserved a copy please confirm immediately and ensure prompt receipt. Few have been printed beyond those known to be reserved so clearly this is going to become a scarce and very valuable Crosby item. Bert Bishop wryly told me that if it cost £10 a copy it would still be nowhere near representing the untold hours of research that has gone into its compilation. I can well believe him. The printing of it, too, has been an onerous chore for yours truly (AND Mrs. Bristo!) Every effort has been made to keep costs down and you will not need, perhaps, to be told that profit was NOT an essential requirement of this project - a happy exception in this commercial, "viable" world! We expect to break even at this comparatively modest price. Should there be a small surplus it will be devoted exclusively and entirely to the funds of the I.C.C.

I confidently predict copies will be changing hands at a fiver apiece in a very short while: so, you have the opportunity to get in on the ground-floor - nay! the bargain basement.

As the mere "printer", I congratulate Bert and John on their painstaking endeavours.

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WANTED: The LPs "ROBIN AND THE 7 HOODS", "ANYTHING GOES" (the original album, NOT No. 15 of BING'S HOLLYWOOD. Also Bing's book "CALL ME LUCKY", and photos and cuttings of Bing and Kathy - ones including Kathy and other people acceptable. All letters answered. Write Brian Jones, 23, Plas Road, Fleur-de-Lis, Blackwood, Mon.

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BECAUSE of the A-Z publication and other matters, many of you awaiting letters or tapes from me will be feeling aggrieved at my seeming lack of courtesy. I crave your indulgence. I have NOT overlooked or forgotten...especially a certain young man awaiting some 78s! I really have been at full stretch. And when this issue is safely "out of the way", I will make amends!

AND, of course, this issue reached you considerably later than you expected. This is partly because of pressure of work - and partly by design. We are accepting readers' suggestions that we should time issues so that you get one nearer CHRISTMAS! Seems a long way off - but its rushing up all the time...

ALSO, I have remarked that there was a fair stock of 78s that I would list here at 5p each: happily, or unhappily, whichever way you look at it, random callers have so decimated the stock that I have decided to make presents of the remainder to certain young members, and one or two others who do not have a lot of cash in these difficult times (for some people, at any rate) for records they nevertheless desperately want.

I KNOW no true Crosby collector will carp at this policy.

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ON JUNE 10TH at St. Nicholas Church, Great Wakering, Essex, our dedicated young

Editor will, as he has indicated, enter the realm of holy wedlock - with a reception at the Village Hall afterwards. One can only pray that Mrs. John-to-be has been indoctrinated to the state of acceptance that she will, one must assume, share her young husband with - Bing Crosby! In a time-sense, that is...

I attended a wedding last summer and, not being aware of the full ramifications of this permissive and changing world, was astonished to hear the organist playing popular tunes of the day whilst the ceremony was awaited. "A Whiter Shade of Pale" - or is it the other way round? - sticks in my mind. Now, it makes one almost wish one had been married in such an age. Will John and his bride be married to the strains of Bing singing "Thine Alone"? Or "When the Mighty Organ Played 'O Promise Me'"? What about "For Love Alone" ? Its a beautiful thought - though one's mind boggles at the total prospect. What of "Feudin' & Fightin'"?

Supposing - there I go again, you cannot miss a Crosby title, can you! - s'posing as I was saying - Mrs. John is a Sinatra fan! No, John, wouldn't do a thing like that!

But, more seriously, I know the good wishes for the day and for the years ahead will flow warmly to young John on this momentous occasion. On behalf of all ICC members and readers I offer the happy couple the most sincere good wishes for their future happiness and prosperity. That their life together will, inevitably, be accompanied by the strains of the Crosby voice, must go without saying. What happier augury could there be ?

Every happiness, success, and prosperity to you - Mr. and Mrs. John Bassett.

THIS IS YOUR LIFE! (Ugh)

I couldn't agree more, as they say, with Bert Bishop's comments on the ITV version of this television programme. This programme MUST have integrity and achievement underlying it: even in the best, it is often difficult to avoid embarrassment. But the succession of "gimmick" youngsters must have made Eamonn Andrews himself blush. I don't normally watch the programme, though I did see the introduction to one. And to the undying credit of the youthful actress being spotlighted, and doubtless to the consternation of the producers of the programme, she upped and exclaimed: "My Life! I haven't HAD any yet...." I have a very soft spot for this young lady.

So, having written off the feature as puerile, I was gaily typing away in the "other room" when I heard excited shouts of "Reg, REG! Bing's on the telly...!" Bing's on the television? What in THAT! And he was, lending as always, a new dignity to the programme though, for once, it was portraying an extremely worthwhile personality, as Bert has already described. I liked Bing's inevitable quip Kathy was a qualified nurse and "always at the hypodermic at the ready..." It was a warming interlude, and so totally unexpected.

AND ON THE SUBJECT OF TELEVISION: It is an incredible fact that we have members who are not old enough to remember Bing's celebrated excursion into British TV advertising. It was early in the Sixties that Bing's immaculate tones were allied to the virtues of a well known brand of petrol - to wit, Bing went Shell! The jingle - highly swingy and melodious and written to tie-in with Bing's 1961 British-made film "THE ROAD TO HONG KONG" - has long disappeared from the ITV screens but of all places to hear it again, it turned up on BBC televsion! This was on Sunday night, May 7th, late in the evening in a rather uninteresting programme otherwise that is! called "What Turns You On?" I didn't listen all through - it was that sort of programme. But a unique novelty to hear any advertising jingle on the BBC - particularly as it was Bing's. And there is an amusing little sideline to Bing's "Shell" commercial. I remember someone said to me around the time: "Fancy Bing Crosby singing on commercials..." in a slightly disparaging tone.

As if, indeed, Bing had come down in the world! Had stooped, in fact, to demeaning himself - with Advertising!

The person, who certainly should have known better, looked astonished when I patiently explained that, owing to the system of commercial radio and, later, television in America, Bing's radio career like that of every other world-class American artist was the result purely of commercial sponsorship! There was no other way in the States.

Lest those who are sticklers for complete accuracy think I'm also "not with it", I'd better add that it IS possible to broadcast in America with out commercial backing and advertising. Indeed, Bing's historic broadcast nation-wide was such a broadcast. Paid for by the radio station itself and not by an outside sponsor. This is what is known as a "sustaining" broadcast - keeping the schedule going in between advertiser-sponsored programmes. But even this only obtains until a sponsor comes forward.

And as we all know, they weren't slow in coming forward when the Crosby larynx was let loose on the air-waves.

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I THINK OLIVE GREGORY WAS JUST A LITTLE AGHAST WHEN SHE OPENED THE LAST ISSUE OF "BING" - AND SAW HER SPLENDID LETTER SO HEAVILY FEATURED! BUT - I did tell the lady I wanted to use it. And I'm so glad I did - and I feel Olive can be, too.

Her most interesting description of just what Bing had meant to her over the years was mentioned in most of the letters I received following publication of the February issue. Without exception correspondents found it, not only impressive Crosbyana - but also found it paralleling their own experience.

Mr. Jim Hill - who lives at the lyrical address of "Sapperton", Quietways, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire - was typical. Jim wrote:

"...I enjoyed the latest BING very much and I wish you and John Bassett every success in the future. I think the letter from Miss Olive Gregory contains the thoughts and feelings of many, many, Bing admirers.

"I wonder how many Crosby fans all over the world have been helped over a personal tragedy by his records and films. I know I have on more than one occasion.... Yours sincerely, Jim Hill."

When Bing remarks he was "just one of the boys", "kinda glad I made those phonograph records..." he obviously has little idea of the profound effect he has had on the personal lives - indeed, the day to day living - of so many people who will always be grateful.

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IAN ARNOTT lives up in Culcabock, Inverness - is 38 and has been a Bing fan for 26 of those years. Ian says "....I know I am not the youngest, or the oldest fan - but what about the northmost follower of Der Bingle?" Well, could be Ian IS - I'd have to study the globe. I imagine Ian means in the British Isles - and that he probably is the most "northmost"! I cannot find a more northern address on the register. Ian saw Bing at St. Andrews last year.

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I was extremely sorry to hear from REG DAVIES, of 2, Lincombe Mount, Brackenwood, Leeds, that he has been experiencing a severe bout of ill-health. It did not, however, prevent him from writing a most interesting letter or two to me! Reg told me how his "day was made" by seeing Bing on the "This Is Your Life" programme already mentioned - but had another day spoiled by hear-

ing Matt Monroe "murder" a Bing song on the radio! "It nearly made me weep, the way he sang it" lamented Reg, "compared with the way Bing sang it...believe me, I could have sung it better myself..." Happily, Reg appears to be well on the way to better health. I sincerely hope so.

PS: I suppose Matt is no better and no worse than many others. But they ask for it when they sing songs so indelibly associated with Bing!

OUR PICTURES MAY NEED A BIT OF EXPLANATION! At least, the one featuring STEPHANE GRAPPELLI and yours truly, Reg Bristo. And that IS the way to spell his name - he recently changed it, after all these years. Perhaps it IS a noteworthy picture insofar as Stephane is one of the very few world-famous instrumentalists with whom Bing has NOT recorded! I think even our teenage members will know that Stephane Grappelli has been acknowledged as perhaps the world's greatest jazz-violinist - for about 40 years, too. He was part of the legendary duo of Grappelli and Django Rheinhart, with the latter on guitar - around usually they had, in their earlier days, The Quintent of the Hot Club of France. As you will see, Stephane appeared at a Fab. 30's Ball in the Yorkshire town of Keighley last October. Bing recorded of course with such diverse fiddlers as Joe Venuti and Jascha Heifitz - but never Grappelli. Its difficult to imagine Stephane acting as accompanist to ANY singer. When he gets that violin tucked under his chin, he closes his eyes, and proceeds to embark upon the most incredible extemporisation - as most readers are aware. Oh yes, one or two readers have been kind enough (?) to ask what Reg Bristo looks like! I would ask them to be a little indulgent - the photograph was a harsh flashlight one and stencil reproduction hasn't helped it. Indeed, I've been told I rather resemble a - PANDA!

The other picture, of course, is highly prized by John Fleming and his wife, of Banbury, Oxon. A wonderful souvenir of his 1961 meeting with Bing, the story of which he told so well in the last issue.

So! What kind of waxworks of celebrities IS Madame Tussaud's - with no Bing! Cross 'em off the visiting list, I say.

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FAIR'S FAIR! You got to hand it to ol' Ralph Harding - he's got a rare sense of humour! Read his letter again! And look at the wonderful free plug our Editor has given him. He's a wily one, this Ralph! As Olive Gregory and Brenda Miles pointed out recently, where BING scores is that it is devoted entirely to Bing: we do not feel the necessity to fill it up with stories about other artists UNLESS they have a very tangible connection with our maestro. Still, I like the Collector - and Ralph does work hard on matters Crosby. BUT, he will NOT blush unseen - or unheard!

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TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, RON MOODY IS THE ONLY CROSBY-IMPERSONATOR WHO DOESN'T SING! Quite a unique achievement, I would say. But, he's got Bing's talking voice off to a T.

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A LARGE PROPORTION OF "BING" READERS ALSO READ "GOLDEN YEARS" and they will be mildly amused/astonished/indignant to learn that "MEMORY LANE" is now under the direction of Ray Pallett. This will answer all those who have been asking: "What has happened to 'Memory Lane' - again!"

It is true that the originator of the 1930's Record Society with its magazine "GOLDEN YEARS" also inaugurated, later, the 'Memory Lane' project.

But GOLDEN YEARS, the original magazine of the ORIGINAL 1930's Record Society was surrendered to Frank Murphy - and Frank saved this very worthy idea from extinction by utilising the resources of the ICC.

Now, in its turn, "MEMORY LANE" seems to have been the subject of a resurrection "take-over" act. This is no reflection whatever on RAY PALLET who almost certainly is unaware of the facts. Neyertheless, we wish him well.

"GOLDEN YEARS" by common consent has achieved a deservedly wide membership/circulation and is reckoned the leader in its field. It is, like BING, published quarterly on the 25th of January, April, July, and October. Its members include Denny Dennis, Hat Gonella, Denis Norden, Geo. Chisholm, Tiny Winters, Alfie Noakes, and a host of famous cinema-organists. It is edited by yours truly, REG BRISTO, but written largely by members FOR members. Peter Tanner concludes, in the forthcoming July issue, the "Paul Whiteman Story" which has been presented in four instalments and hailed as a fascinating history. Many of our members have written the sleeve-notes for vintage dance band reissues. Membership costs £1.05p per annum.

Hmmm...sorry, this issue seems to be a bit contentious, doesn't it, what with BING, THE CROSBY COLLECTOR, GOLDEN YEARS and poor old MEMORY LANE. But, facts are facts, are they not?

The sudden death of Mr. S.F.Davis, of Southampton, was indeed a stunning blow, coming as it did at the time Mr. Davis had initiated what could have been the most exciting Crosby news of all time. For that's what it would have been if Bing had, or still does, visit Southampton to sing in St. Mary's Church in that famous port of ocean-going liners.

Bing's appearances in this country TO SING have been remarkably few - originally only brought about by the unprecedented circumstances of the Second World War, and subsequently by rare TV appearances, plus the Shepperton film venture. Certainly he has never arrived in this country to sing in a church on a semi-private occasion - though how a visit by the world's best-loved troubadour would have remained that is difficult to imagine.

And, according to Bing's letter to Norman Toogood, he has far from ruled out the possibility of making the visit. Every Crosby admirer will follow any developments with mounting interest. While we certainly hope that Bing will make the visit one cannot help thinking what a tremendous tragedy it is, and will be, that Mr. Davis is not here to see the fruits of his inspiration.

John has already presented the condolences of the ICC to the family and relatives of Mr. Davis. A very sad loss at a comparatively early age.

SOME KIND READER sent me a newspaper cutting, and I'm ashamed to say that the letter became detached and I don't now know who it was! I don't even know the paper! Seems this paper was inviting readers to tell them what turned them on (do you like these contemporary phrases?) in the field of nostalgia. They got all sorts of answers - among them this one:

> "During the War I was a Bing Crosby fanatic. Convalescing, with my leg in plaster, I walked on crutches (and hitch¾hiked) every afternoon for about eight miles to Marks and Spencer in Crewe, to hear Bing being played over the record counter.
>
> After a week or so, as soon as I came in the sales girls would put Bing's latest on, and there I would remain in a trance.
>
> When I told the girls I was going back to my unit they presented me with a worn-out copy of Bing's "Where the Blue of the Night". It's a treasure I still have, though hardly audible. Bing to me is nostalgia at its best.
>
> B. PARKER,
> South Mossley Hill Road,
> LIVERPOOL. "

* Does anyone know Mr. Parker? He is NOT a member of the ICC - I would gladly send him a copy of this issue but I fear the address is likely to be insufficient. Why, we might even present him with a more audible copy of "Blue of the Night"!

And by the way, hands up those younger members who didn't know that M. & S. once sold records!

It's only fair to say that Mr. Parker's experience was probably duplicated what, a million times?, at that particular period.

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THERE IS AN ENORMOUS PILE OF BACK ISSUES OF "BING" available - from pre-Bassett-Bristo days, that is. I would appreciate the space! If anyone is desirous of back numbers, let me know which ones and I will endeavour to satisfy at the moderate charge of 20p a copy, post paid. Six for £1! They include, by the way, the "Reg Bristo Commentary" and "Chronicle" that Frank once issued as separate supplements to"Bing." These may be useful who are intent on completing the collection of "Bing Crosby, Accompanied By....." which has been running for two or three years.

Isn't it a FACT! Every time a publication is published about Bing's recordings he makes a new 'un before it can appear on the market - the book, that is! So it is with "The A-Z of Bing Crosby" - BUT, the titles and accompaniment of "BING & BASIE" are included as a last-page addition - thanks to fast work by the compilers - and the poor old printer!

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I recently spent a week-end in and around London - and in THE HARLEQUIN RECORD SHOP, Oxford Street, W1 I discovered no less than 3 copies of THOROUGHLY MODERN BING at the sale price of 99p! Having already spent more on records than I anticipated I refrained from snapping them up, thinking everyone must be catered for anyway.... I got back to start printing this issue and found also a letter from Norman Toogood asking for this very album! How frustrating ... however, it is possible there are still copies there, I would write offering to pay, of course, post and packing.

Or, if they have a friend in London (would-be customers, that is) perhaps they can prevail upon them to pop to Oxford Street and get them!

ABOUT BING'S RECORDS, OLD, NOT-SO-OLD - AND NEW!

OLD CROSBY

I'm very intrigued, as I mentioned earlier, at Bing's inclusion of "Little Green Apples" in the new album with Count Basie.

Has he a special liking for this song - such a liking for instance, that he feels he can do a better job this time - better than on the HEY JUDE album?

Or did he just FORGET! Bing is notorious for his post-recording late of interest....

The world of Crosbyana! A wonderful world indeed.

Bing at around 68 (we'll not get into any arguments over THAT) outs a new album - A TIME TO BE JOLLY.

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A remarkable achievement in any event, is it not? And sure enough, some youngsters opine that is is "one of Bing's best"..... or even, "Bing's best.."

Inevitably, some grey-beard (!) from the Thirties pontificates, reproves.... looks down loftily from his years and, in effect, says "Tut, tut, my boy.... this is nothing .. compared with the Thirties..." Or, "...in fact, I don't care for any Bing records after 1934 (1936) (1938), perhaps 1950...."fill it in as appropriate.

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Myself, I remember the early 30's very well indeed, especially 1932 - and THE BIG BROADCAST of that year. I remember when "Love In Bloom", "Straight from the Shoulder", "Please", "Here Lies Love", "June in January" and those scores of wonderful songs hit the world...as I've often told. I became, as you will perhaps observe, a Crosby-fanatic for life.

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It would be idle - perhaps silly - to pretend that Bing's voice today, or for the last 20 years for that matter has the vibrant vitality it had in the early Thirties. Of course it hasn't....remarkable as has been Bing's career, time didn't stand still for him. The true miracle IS that Mr. Crosby has remained so consistent IN VIEW OF THE PASSING YEARS. He has never really faded. For me, at any rate, while conceding that the Thirties, especially the early years, were the true Halcyon years, practically every one of the hundreds of records he has continued to make since has contained something essentially, uniquely, BING. One could give scores of examples....

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And one of the albums I had selected for my "text" in this issue, by quite a coincidence, is THE COUNTRY HITS album circa 1963. Coincidence because I note TONY BULMER has been extolling the virtues of this very album earlier in this issue. Tony asks if anyone will disagree with him in his high-assessment of this album. I for one will not. I agree absolutely. It is a very fine album indeed. Bing is in really excellent voice; the accompaniments are swingy/stringy, eminently suited to the style of songs featured - a fine job by Bill Justis.

Furthermore, this album is very strong on MELODY all the way through - as well as having a nice change of pace as regards tempo. Why, it even includes a waltz-time song, very rare these days. This of course, is "Four Walls" a lovely piece of melancholy! As indeed is the other "Wall" song - "Hello Walls" - one might say Bing went to the wall on this album!

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Both these songs are full of resonant, deep, notes in the incomparable Crosby style. One might add a further slant on the young fan/older fan aspect as this point: lyrics which, when you are youthful, are highly romantic, perhaps even inspiring, tend in later life to sound perhaps a little more trite! This in itself is rather a sad commentary on life, you might feel, but I believe it to be true. Yet despite that, we all I hope do retain a degree of romanticism no matter what age it is. Just as well. Therefore, "four walls closing in on me" is an emotion we are all bound to feel at times. Bing's beautiful phrasing does indeed inspire romantic melancholy. I'm sure Olive Gregory's views on this would be of interest!

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Speaking of waltz-time - as I was at the top of this page, reminds me of Bert Bishop's well-reasoned (as always) remarks on an alternative signature tune for Bing - a theme I had first raised about a year ago. Bert referred to Ray Noble's lovely, historic, song "Goodnight Sweetheart" - beautifully recorded by the young Bing during which he speaks a "goodnight sweetheart in particularly vibrant style. One imagines what this did to the females listening to the radio! Ray Noble did very well out of this number for, as Bert pointed out, it became almost legendary at dances - and indeed, many radio programmes - but not as the last WALTZ!

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I point this out, not to show that I go through the mag. looking for errors - that would be too long a process, especially on my pages! - but because of a curious musical fact. The largest proportion of tunes can be played in virtually any tempo one fancies. The US military bands showed that "St. Louis Blues" makes a wonderful march! I've also heard their bands playing "Tiger Rag" as a march. But it is a fact that "Goodnight Sweetheart" is a foxtrot, usually quite slow, sometimes faster, but always a four-in-a-bar foxtrot. What is really curious is that it just cannot be played in waltz-time! This is quite unusual. I wonder if Ray Noble himself ever thought about this afterwards? If it had been in waltz-tempo it would undoubtedly have become the ONLY number with which to end a dance.

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As it was, it was always played immediately prior to the traditional "last waltz" - when "duty" took you to your sentimental partner, irrespective of dancing ability! Hence looking back over the years one could be forgiven for recalling this romantic song as a waltz. However, back to The Great Country hits - made around 1965, incidentally, not 1967 as I said earlier.

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Those "Walls" songs were quite new to me, as was "Sunflower" and "Wolverton Mountain" which undoubtedly helped in the attractiveness of the album. Other songs had been well popularised by other artists and thus it was very acceptable to hear Bing offering his unique versions. "Little Bitty Tear", the sad-whimsical song was a hit with Burl Ives and indeed Mikki & Griff; "Still" by Ken Dodd (who, like so many comedians, has a really good voice)

and "Jealous Heart" by, I believe, a gentleman by the name of Al Morgan about 20 years ago. This latter a really good number, sung impeccably by Bing with a highly rhythmic accompaniment - and no loss of melody.

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"Still" has the title word slightly repetitious - and as Bing always consciously or unconsciously (the latter, he says) emphasises the operative words "Still" by Bing comes over with particularly strong emphasis. It was this song, incidentally, which led many of us to remark that Mr. C. appeared to be suffering from a cold when he made it!

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"Crazy Arms" and "Bouquet of Roses" are two more excellent songs, full of unexpected swing and rich tones, neither high or low ones being shirked. "Wolverton Mountain" - and note the tremendous punchy swing of the last chorus - has a lyric which tells a credible story and this is a particular favourite of mine in a very, very good album. I understand Nat King Cole sang this one.

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"Sunflower" rips along with tremendous zip - "..and I'm 'heah' to tell you.." sings Bing...."Wabash Cannonball" ditto. "O Lonesome Me" I always thought a good song in the welter of pop rubbish that was being churned out at the time it was written - by Don Gibson, while "Heartaches By The Number" is another excellent number.

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Good songs, nicely arranged, beautifully accompanied, and Bing in excellent voice throughout. It must add up to one of the finest modern albums Bing has made by any standards. The sleeve picture drew mild criticism at the time of issue, being a portrait of the maestro, not a photograph, colourful yet slightly insipid (what a contradiction!) and while an excellent likeness of Bing, definitely had "something missing". The brief notes contained no inaccuracies. In fact, the first paragraph has a nice sentiment. Here it is, to save you pulling it out! --

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"During the fabulous career that Bing Crosby has turned into an era all its own, he has demonstrated a vast talent and enthusiasm for nearly every phase of the entertainment art—a sort of warm and glowing 'road to everywhere'." Indeed.

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So, I from my "lofty height" of 40 years fanship of the peerless Bing, have reached the stage where I can comfortably see the point of view of the younger, newer, fans - and those of us who play "I'm Playing With Fire" - and sigh!

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Certainly, in the ICC, there is room for all shades of opinion. And that will always be the policy. So, I ask the "kids" not to be disheartened - and I urge the veterans towards tolerance. Consider: these fans who ARE fans yet still do not remember anything of the early 30's because THEY WERE NOT BORN (some by a couple or more decades!) really must earn our approbation.

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BING CROSBY

NO.15

THE LEGEND ON BING'S RECORD LABELS.

ACCOMPANIED BY —

RUSS MORGAN

Previously in this Series:

1. John Scott Trotter.
2. Victor Young.
3. Paul Whiteman.
4. Buddy Cole.
5. Vic Schoen.
6. Gus Arnheim.
7. The Dorsey Bros.
8. Jimmie Grier.
9. Bob Crosby.
10. Lennie Hayton.
11. Georgie Stoll.
12. Billy May.
13. The McIntires - Lanie, and Dick, and Harry Owens.
14. Perry Botkin.

RUSS MORGAN, bandleader - and songwriter, held a firm place in the affections of the American - and the British - public for over 40 years until his comparatively recent death.

His band was a "sweet" band, which means it played rhythmic, melodious dance music in the "sweet music" style. It would be quickly dismissed by "jazz" connoisseurs - but so would Guy Lombardo, Isham Jones, Glenn Miller, - in fact, a large proportion of the long-lasting bands - long-lasting in public popularity.

* * *

Russ Morgan's music was always richly orchestrated - the band always had a rich, lush, sound and strings were always in evidence. This does not mean, however, that the band could not play with punch and rhythm. This it most certainly did when called for.

Russ Morgan was a fine trombonist himself - and this led to his famous musical "trade-mark" - the wah-wah phrasing, and more particularly, the queer little "wahs" he used to slip into the arrangements - and performed himself, of course. As a matter of interest, the sound of the Billy Ternent Orchestra in this country comes very close to the Russ Morgan style. A year or so ago I was at Keighley where Billy Ternent was the star attraction. I had a very long and interesting chat with Billy and in the course of it I asked him, with some temerity though it was obviously true, whether it was true to say that he based his style on that of Russ Morgan?

Billy looked at me with renewed interest. "Indeed I do," he answered. Seems Billy, in company with Jack Hylton, visited the States in the mid-Thirties - that's another story by the way - and it was then that he struck up a friendship with Russ Morgan, whom he had already admired from a distance. "Russ was one of the finest musicians, and nicest chaps, I ever met. He really knew the business - bands and arranging. I'm very pleased that the sound of my band resembles Russ's...."

Russ also sang with his band - and was quite a radio personality, perhaps in the affable, bland, radio style of Ben Bernie and many others - a wonderful feature of the 1930's, when bandleaders were able to impress their own individual styles and personalities on the listening millions - and become household names in the process.

The biggest song-hit from the pen of Russ Morgan was probably "So Tired". And its a song that detractors (if there are any!) would say typifies the Music in the Morgan manner. This song has enjoyed several big revivals since Russ first wrote and performed it. The first revival came during World War II when it regained much popularity and was a No. 1 request record on Forces and Family Favourites for many, many, months. Russ also wrote "Does Your Heart Beat For Me?" which he used as his theme, or signature, tune. And this was one of the numbers Bing recorded with the Russ Morgan outfit - though he never did, of course, make a record of "So Tired". Pity. It would have been an ideal Crosby-ballad. You will see from the following list that Bing only made 8 records with Russ, and the association lasted just three years.

No.	Title.	Rec'dg Date.	Remarks.
1.	My Heart Goes Crazy.	22.8.46	With Male Chorus.
2.	Among My Souvenirs.	"	
3.	So Would I.	"	
4.	Does Your Heart Beat For Me?	"	
5.	This Could Be For Ever.	5.12.49	With Louane Hogan.
6.	Helpless.	"	
7.	The Yodel Blues.	23.12.49.	With the Morganaires.
8.	The Big Movie Show In The Sky.	"	" " "

A not very impressive list, perhaps though the no. 8 title has always been the object of much interest. I once saw "Among My Souvenirs" listed as Bing's "worst" record! The Morganaires, of course, were the "resident" vocal group with the Morgan orchestra. I must confess that there are a couple of records here with which I myself am not familiar. But, I like the music in the Morgan manner. Its interesting to speculate how Bing got in these "small-output" recording associations - there were many such. Perhaps a gesture from the Maestro to musicians he admired?

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Glad to see that ROY CHAPPELL has been in touch with the Editor. Do you know that Roy has a placard in the rear window of his car -

ROY CHAPPELL
THE SINGER WITH A TOUCH OF THE BING'S !

Roy puts over a fine act - seen it several times now. Last time I was with him - he eats, sleeps and dreams Crosby! - he was telling me that Mike Hailwood, the famous motorcycle race-rider was once asked if he didn't find it boring roaring round the Isle of Man in the TT races, and what did he THINK about on such occasions.

The slightly surprising answer was: "I sing to myself mostly - mainly Bing Crosby songs in a voice I, and no-one else, fondly believes to be a Crosby voice!"

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WHEN YOU RECEIVE YOUR COPY OF "THE A-Z OF BING CROSBY" you will find that the right-hand side of the title pages is blank so that members can use it for their own purposes, e.g. notes, whether or not they have the record, and so on. Seems an excellent idea to me.

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A QUIZ

....ON BING'S ALBUM SLEEVES !

This presupposes you have all the albums concerned, so it has been confined to the more common albums.

I don't know if its difficult or easy - I only compiled it! Naturally, you are expected to answer it WITHOUT consulting your collection. This you can do when stumped - though the answers are on the following page.

If you find the quiz idea entertaining I'll make it a regular feature. Indeed, readers may care to set their own ideas.... let me know.

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1. Which sleeve has a picture of Bing - AND KATHY on it?

2. On which is Bing seen wearing his "Pebble Beach" cap - with the name clearly readable ?

3. Name two sleeves which have Bing pictured on each with a famous, bandleading, trumpeter.

4. The sleeve which has Bing in a green soft hat, blue scarf, black and white check coat - and it also has, for a further clue, "AMOS RECORDS" on it?

5. Which two Brunswick albums has a picture of Bing, identical picture but one is in colour, the other monochrome ? Inevitably he is holding his pipe - the coloured picture shows Bing wearing a red and gold tie. Further clue? The coloured picture also has "Orchestra directed by Jack Pleis" on it.

6. Which sleeve shows: a trombone and a pint of beer on a chair, a striped blazer, with straw hat and pipe on another, a trumpet and set of drums on the floor - and a "fur" coat and bowler hat hanging up?

7. Which sleeve has a small picture of Mr. C. "insert" in the top right hand corner, an up-to-date picture, and the words "NEWLY RECORDED" on it?

8. This one may surprise you: The picture of Bing on the Ace of Hearts album "BING SINGS FOR CHILDREN" also appears, minus the children pictured, on a Brunswick album. Which one?

9. The Ace of Hearts albums "Old Masters" Vols. 1, 2, and 3 (which I see Tony Bulmer dislikes!) have the same illustration, but the background colour only is different to distinguish them. What is the colour of Volume 2.?

10. On which album sleeve is Bing pictured with a dog?

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Well, can you get them 100 per cent? If you can, I'll do a "Hughie Green" and say "By Golly - you certainly know your albums!"

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And speaking of album sleeves - I'm wondering what they'll give us on the BING AND BASIE !

ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ-ON-PRECEDING PAGE

1. LAT 8505 - "Holiday in Europe".

2. MFP 1209 - "Bing & Louis".

3. MFP 12[illegible] "Bing & Louis", and RCA RD 27032 "Bing with a Beat" (Louis Armstrong and Bob Scobey.

4. London HAU/SAU.8391 "Hey Jude",

5. Bruns LAT 8139, "Songs I Wish I Had Sung", and Bruns. LAT 8281 "Bing Crosby Sings",

6. AH 31 - "Bing and the Dixieland Bands".

7. Reprise R 6106 - "Return to Paradise Islands".

8. BING 15 (Bing's Hollywood series): "Anything Goes". (Compare them!).

9. Blue. (the others are, of course, red and green).

10. AH 164: "Rare Style", with picture from the film "Emperor Walt[illegible]

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There is a faint possibility that American readers had different pictures on their issues - though from what I have seen, they are largely identical.

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There I was, slogging away at the typewriter, working on this issue ON what used to be WHITSUN BANK HOLIDAY...conscious of the mail which each time was bringing me notes: "Reg - where's BING...am I paid up...?"

Enter daughter's young man....nice young fella...."Thought you would have been watching BBC 2...."

"No time for moronic telly," I says, barely looking up.

"But you usually stop to watch Bing," he says, innocuously. Stunned silence...

"Bing and Bob Hope in 'Road to Rio' - been watching it in the house," he went on - kindly. "Very funny, good picture..."

Now my wife is "controller of programmes"in our house. I rely upon her to study the programmes and keep me briefed,so, reprimands all round! No excuse. She just fell down on the job.

Seriously though - I did miss the film for the reasons stated. Oh me....

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The new American lp of Bing - "The Best of Bing Crosby" mentioned earlier on in this issue; certainly contains a fair number of million sellers and perhaps is the best shot at the "best of Bing" so far. But - what a task from so many songs - as the A -Z book will show. Take a thousand Crosby admirers - and you would certainly get a thousand different lists as the best of Bing... What lucky fans we are! Especially when you think that some contemporary stars (sic) cannot fill one LP with their entire repertoire! But, we must not be caustic. Times have changed.....ALAS! Which reminds me though, there is a gleam of light on the situation generally. The Daily Mirror published quite a big piece on the vogue for old time [illegible] recently, particularly with reference to their records, the old 78s. Inevitably it said that Bing Crosby was easily top of the list in this movement.

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OUR REGRETS AGAIN FOR THE LATENESS OF THIS ISSUE: BUT IT WILL BRING YOU A BUMPER CHRISTMAS ISSUE NEARER THE HOLIDAY.

PERTINENT POINTS FROM THE POST

From our 15-year-old prodigy, BERNARD BRUTY, 23 Parkthorne Rd., Clapham Park, LONDON, SW12:

"...when you next write to me could you let me know about the grading of records. For example when in Islington at the record bazaar the records were graded in their condition - like V/F and others..... PS I had a Christmas card from a member, Jack Dougan. I thought it was very nice of him.. Sincerely, Bernard."

It WAS nice of Jack. A nice gesture indeed. As to grading records: well, this is easily the No. 1 bugbear of vintage record collecting. I could write a book on the subject - and my experiences - and Bernard would be no wiser at the end. I doubt if I would be! But, one or two of the record magazines make a brave effort to set standards: RSVP is one of them. Bernard should write to Pete Seago, RSVP., 5 Tollett St., Stepney Green, London, E1 for a copy of RSVP. Even better, Peter will see this and perhaps help young Bernard. The only safe advice for now I will give the lad is: BEWARE!

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Mention of Jack Dougan - I was delighted to see that he and Barry Adams have been "visiting" with Johnny Jones. The question of Ireland is indeed a thorny one - and we mention it at our peril! We here continue to stand aghast at what is happening, whatever the causes, whatever the reasons. We can only hope desperately that some sanity soon prevails before the lovely land of Ireland and its economy are wrecked completely. The thought occurs that Bing must be grievously affected by what is happening in the land of his forbears.

Yet there is a lot of sanity in Ireland. Listen to a tape from Johnny Jones as I have fairly recently...I was amazed - and delighted. He "paints" a perfect word picture of tranquility and one stands dazed at the contrast with what we read in the papers and see on the TV. Johnny, a profound Crosby... admirer - with his charming wife! - speaks in a delightful Irish voice, tho' I did detect it wasn't PARTICULARLY Irish, if you get me, with the sort of rich urbanity that American Irish have. Imagine my surprise when, during the course of the tape, Johnny revealed he was a - WELSHMAN! Of course, HE'S ONE OF THE JONES' BOYS! However, the good wishes of all members are extended to our Irish members, both North and South, in these tragic times. May they soon improve.

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From DOUG. BLACK, 25 Egmont Terrace, Hawthorn, South Australia, 5062 - a good, old friend of ours!

"Received BING a few days ago and am in the process of enjoying it as usual. It is really remarkable how a magazine can remain so interesting, dealing solely with Bing, when so very few NEW activities can be reported....."

Thanks Doug. As we said earlier, solely Bing is our aim: but happily this time there IS quite a bit of new activity to report - as you will have all read by now.

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From John Fleming, 8 Caernarvon Way, Banbury, Oxon: "Enjoyed the February issue very much....isn't it amazing how Bing in some way has touched upon, perhaps largely influenced, the lives of so many people? They have carried on with life, working, getting married, bringing up families with all the accompanying responsibilities and still they regard Bing with the same unchanging affection. Indeed, he has helped...."

Indeed!

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IN ANSWER TO SO MANY CORRESPONDENTS: NO, I have not heard further from Miss Simmonds, the young lady student who intended to do an examination essay on Bing. No doubt I will in due course. New readers: the young lady asked for some "information" on Bing and I duly obliged. Thanks for liking my "piece".

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FROM A "NEWER FELLA" - who has "something on his plate"! George Patmore, 1, Lyon Close, Galleywood, Chelmsford, Essex:

"Thank you for prompt reply and I DO wish to become a member. It has taken me two evenings to read thro' the magazine..it remains for more leizurely reading and ready reference in the future. Whilst I am indeed an extremely keen Bing admirer and own many of his recordings I have never been a collector as such. This I hope to rectify as from now with the (unattainable!) goal of acquiring a copy of all his issued recordings!! Of the records I have of Bing's the two earliest (78s) are "T'ain't So Honey, T'Ain't So" (recorded 10 June '28) and "I'm On The Crest of a Wave"(recorded 17 June '28) with the Rhythm Boys and Paul Whiteman's Orchestra. My latest purchase, tho' not a recent record, is the "Hey Jude" LP...."

It's a big welcome to George - he will get the Bing and Basie record, of course, and the thought occurs that if he can fill the gap between his 1928 78s and "Hey Jude" he will be well on the way! And Mr. Patmore also passed on an item which, as I've printed through this issue, I haven't noticed mentioned regarding an ITV documentary (10.30pm 14 March) called "Inside the World of Your Dreams" and in it Chay Bligh, the "round the wor ld yachtsman" referred to one dream that he had on his lone voyage. Apparently in his dream Chay was in a hotel room when a man came in whom he instantly recognised as - BING CROSBY! Bing walked up to Chay, offered him a large polythene bag saying "I Think you will find that this will help." Turned, and left the room.... Helpful as ever, Bing, even in dreams! But this IS most interesting. No doubt we would like to know more. Thanks to George for letting us know. We seemed to have missed it otherwise.

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NB - George will observe from the "officers" that he is just around the corner from some No. 1 Crosby collectors!

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A BIG WELCOME TOO, to Lee Argent; Norman Beadell; A. Fogel (USA); John Gunn (Hey John, how about letting me see the Report?); R. Hampton, Captain "Ted" Kaspar (Texas, USA) (lovely note from Ted - Headed "From the desk of Captain T.H.Kasper...") Jas. Page (Victoria, Australia); Brian Rust!; Albert Stephenson; nice to have you in the Circle.

Members will note a steady growth: and we want it to either stay that way, OR improve to a startling growth. Pass the word around that anyone interested in the incomparable Bing Crosby has a wide new circle of friends for the asking - at £1.05p per year.

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SO MANY MORE LETTERS I WANTED TO QUOTE: my warm thanks to the writers - for their views, their appreciation, their encouragement - and their KINDNESS.

So many letters is one of the rewarding aspects of running this Circle. This life-time hobby of ours. John and I appreciate it enormously. Your views ARE important, whether you a new friend, or an older one; whether you have half a dozen records - or whether you have a near-full collection. There are hints in this issue of how veteran collectors can help newer ones - what about "grading" 78s! The knowledge of the big collectors, in the way of articles, is earnestly invited.

Now, if you are to get this issue at all - I MUST STOP! Prospects for the Summer as I conclude look grim. But what did Bing say? "Clear up directly!"